

the chronicle

Ghostbusters!

There's something strange in the neighbourhood...

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Competition

A chance to win tickets for the Cosford Air Show

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Roy's up for it

Boss Hodgson is ready to handle the pressure

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Traveller caravans move on to estate

TRAVELLERS have moved on to a Black Country industrial estate.

Around 10 caravans are on Excelsior Industrial Estate, near Halesowen.

Police and Dudley Council officers are monitoring the situation to ensure no damage is being caused.

Site owners Langtree said they were monitoring the site, off Cakemore Road, Blackheath. They added they were taking legal advice about the travellers in a bid to force them off the land.

Caravans, motorhomes and other vans and cars can been seen from the roadside. They arrived on the site on Sunday.

Halesowen North Councillor Jeff Hill was contacted by residents about the travellers.

He said: "Legally it is the responsibility of land owners to get the travellers to move and Langtree are doing everything they can to get the group off their land as quickly as they can."

"I have asked council officers to make sure they check nearby council owned open spaces to ensure they are secure, and will not be the group's next destination."

A spokesperson for Langtree Group said: "We are consulting with our legal advisers and working closely with Dudley Council and West Midlands Police to seek a swift resolution."

SVR set for anniversary

SEVERN Valley Railway is on track to celebrate its 150th anniversary.

The railway will hold events over the weekend of May 19 and 20 and will mark the opening of the line, originally between Worcester and Shrewsbury.

A re-enactment of the line's opening will be staged featuring a royal appearance by Queen Victoria, who will call in at all of the stations to meet visitors. There will also be locomotive displays.

● Renovation – page 5

TOWN CENTRE BUS LANES FACING AXE

by Andrew Turton

BUS LANES around Halesowen town centre will be axed under plans backed by a transport chief to cut congestion. Residents and councillors have been calling for three lanes near the town's bus station and on a busy dual carriageway to be shut.

Thousands of dementia cases missed

MORE than 2,300 dementia sufferers in Dudley have not yet been diagnosed with the disease.

Of an estimated 3,852 people with dementia in the borough, just 1,517 have been identified by doctors, latest figures show. It means 2,335 sufferers – are receiving no treatment. Chiefs have invested in new services for sufferers.

Andrew Hindle, NHS Dudley's strategic lead for older people and long term conditions, said: "We have commissioned an integrated dementia pathway. The pathway is an innovative and co-ordinated approach."

"The pathway is already delivering on early diagnosis and providing ongoing support including access to dementia advisors and dementia gateway centres."

"There will also be a Dudley Dementia Strategy later this year that will set out the vision and commissioning intentions to deliver on quality dementia care services," he added.

Figures show the number diagnosed with dementia in the West Midlands rose by 2,100 over the last year from 25,600 to 27,700.

But it is thought there are 41,000 people in the region living with the condition.

In Sandwell there has been a 3.7 per cent rise in the number of people being diagnosed, while there was a two per cent increase in cases, and 1.9 per cent rise in Dudley.

They claim figures show two of the lanes were not reducing bus journey times for passengers against normal road conditions, instead causing traffic jams during peak times with drivers forced to queue in single file.

The lanes earmarked for closure are in Bromsgrove Road between Vine Lane and the Mucklow Hill island and the westbound and eastbound routes in Queensway between the Hagley Road island and Vine Lane.

Members of Halesowen Area committee voted for proposals to axe the lanes last month. Their recommendations were sent to Dudley Council's transport boss, Councillor Patrick Harley, and West Midlands Transport Authority Centro.

Councillor Harley said the proposals have his support and officers would be having discussions with Centro.

Proposals

"These Halesowen bus lanes are among a number of lanes that we are looking to review. We will consult with Centro on the proposals."

Area committee member, Councillor Ken Turner, said the lanes around the bus station were only meant to be temporary.

"They were only there temporarily anyway while the bus station was built four years ago so the time is right to get them out of the way as soon as possible," he said.

"It will be better for Halesowen because at the moment they are just causing congestion and difficulties."

Earlier this month Councillor Harley revealed lanes outside Dudley Zoo and the Black Country Living Museum were also being reviewed. The project is being considered in light of a major £10 million regeneration plan to create a tourism hotspot involving the zoo, the museum and Dudley Canal Tunnels. Councillor Harley says the authority is looking at ways to improve traffic ahead of the opening of the new £6 million Dudley Archives building.

Rock on for Dudley Zoo's 75th



Dave Healy, of Brierley Hill, with the sticks of Dudley Zoo rock at Teddy Gray's

A NEW rock of ages – the sweet variety – has rolled off the production line at a confectionery company to celebrate Dudley Zoo's 75th anniversary.

They are the fifth generation of the family to run the company. Teddy Gray's sticks of rock, produced in its factory in North Street, were sold from a kiosk, where visitors could also buy ice cream, at the zoo each summer until 2005.

Zoo spokeswoman Jill Hitchman said: "It was always a legend to go to Dudley Zoo and have a stick of rock."



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300 apply for just 15 training vacancies

HUNDREDS of people are battling it out for just 15 places on a training programme at Russells Hall Hospital.

Bosses have been inundated with 300 applications for the scheme, which aims to fill vacant positions for healthcare support workers.

The 15 successful applicants will work in different departments and could be offered a permanent contract.

Bosses at the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust are now drawing up a short-list of applicants to interview.

Director of nursing Denise McMahon said: "We have been overwhelmed with inquiries for the programme and pleasantly surprised by its popularity, and by the quality of the people applying for a place."

"It has proved to be a very successful way of recruiting quality support workers who have the potential to progress to a nursing degree and it is now part of the trust's annual workforce plan."

The training scheme was launched in November 2010. Since then, more than 70 have been given contracts.

"We introduced the programme to address the problem of recruiting skilled clinical support workers into the trust," said professional development leader, Maggie Lewis.

Rugby star honour plan

A STATUE or plaque could be erected in Dudley to honour our rugby legend Cliff Watson.

The 72-year-old started his career in the borough before playing for rugby league side St Helens and captaining Great Britain.

Plans are now being drawn up for a statue and a display at Dudley Museum and Art Gallery.

Dudley Council has shown an interest in celebrating Mr Watson's achievements.

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Truth demanded on Subway shop job

AN ADVERT for a "sandwich artist apprentice" to work at a national snack shop chain in the Black Country – for just £2.60 an hour – has left a bad taste in a local MP's mouth.

Dudley MP Ian Austin is demanding an investigation by Work and Pensions Secretary Iain Duncan Smith into whether the job, at a Subway branch in Coseley, is a "genuine apprenticeship" – or a way of paying young staff below the minimum wage. The training company that placed the advert and the Subway shop on Birmingham New Road, Coseley, pledged it was a genuine apprenticeship, fulfilling the requirements for trainees employed at the lower minimum rate of pay.

Job Centre Plus displayed the advert, which says the position is for a level 2 apprenticeship, meaning the successful applicant can be paid a national minimum wage of £2.60. The job, which would involve a 30-hour shift pattern to cover store hours, would be to learn the "art of great sandwich making".

But Mr Austin said: "The Government's specification of apprenticeship standards states that apprentices at level 2 must spend at least 30 per cent of their time on off-the-job training – typically at a further education college – but the advert does not say whether any off

the job training is included."

Mr Austin has now asked Iain Duncan Smith to investigate.

"I asked the National Apprenticeship Service to look into the apprenticeships Subway are offering," he said. The advert was placed by Lifetime Training, of Bristol, where marketing manager Simon Harper said: "The apprenticeships we run on behalf of Subway franchisees are absolutely genuine."

Honour roll for hospital workers

A ROLL of honour has been launched by a town crier – heralding exceptional work by hospital staff who have won praise from their patients.

Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust has created the roll to honour staff who have gone beyond the call of duty. The first six individuals and teams of staff have been recorded.

They were given an extra special honour after their names were announced loudly when Sandwell Town Crier Adrian Holmes rang his bell in the entrance to Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital.

The scroll, chosen from staff identified in some of the hundreds of compliments and "thank you" letters received by the hospital every year, will be updated regularly.

Chief Executive Paula Clark said those on it were a "fabulous bunch".

Among them was Liz Hill, ward clerk on B2 at the hospital, who often literally goes an extra mile by cycling to return possessions left behind by patients after they have visited the hospital.

Reunion for old pupils

A REUNION for former pupils of a Stourbridge school has been organised.

The event has been set up by former High Park School pupil Andy Houlston.

Mr Houlston, of School Drive, Amblecote, is celebrating his 50th birthday and wanted to see if he could arrange a gathering of former school pals. It has been organised for students who attended the school, now called Ridgewood High, Park Road West, Wollaston, between 1977 and 1979.

The event is on May 12 at The Royal Oak pub, Amblecote High Street, at 7.30pm. Call Mr Houlston on 07835 721144 or email andyhoulston@btconnect.com

Women's group

A WOMEN'S business group will hold an afternoon tea party at a stately home near Stourbridge for its next meeting. Glam (Girls Lunching and Meeting) will be at Hagley Hall on May 17 at 2.30pm. Any women interested can email marketing@talbotslaw.co.uk by May 10.



Meningitis victim Robert Parsons with the new £50,000 prosthetic legs

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NEWS

in brief

Walks exploring glass canal links

THE HISTORY of glass making and its connection to the Stourbridge waterways is explored in the latest in a series of walking events.

People can choose from walks in the Jewels on the Cut series.

Broadfield House Glass Museum official Graham Fisher leads the walks from the Bonded Warehouse to Red House Glass Cone on May 26, June 24, July 15, August 27 and September 22.

For details and booking call 01384 812745.

Nearly new baby clothes for sale

A NEARLY new sale of baby clothes, toys and equipment is to be held in the Black Country.

It has been organised by the Stourbridge and Halesowen branch of parents charity NCT.

This session will take place on May 19 at Leasowes Leisure Centre in Kent Road, Halesowen. The sale will run from 10.30am until 12.30pm.

For further information log on to www.nct.org.uk/branches/stourbridge-halesowen.

Quiz night to aid Beacon Centre

A QUIZ is being held to raise funds for Sedgley's Beacon Centre for the Blind on May 11 at 7.30pm.

Teams of four can register to take part for £10.

All the proceeds raised will go towards the centre's work supporting blind and partially sighted people in the Black Country.

For information call 01902 880111.

RSPCA looking for volunteers

AN APPEAL has been launched by the RSPCA to hold collections at Tesco stores.

Week long collections will be held by the RSPCA from Monday at stores in Dudley at Burnt Tree junction and Ridgacre Road, Quinton. Charity officials want people to give up a couple of hours. Call 07715 540518.

Centre open day

THE Old Vicarage Adventure Centre, Stottesdon, near Kidderminster will hold an open day on May 13. Call 01746 186436 or visit www.livetheadventure.co.uk

£10,000 bill over fire fight

THE LEGAL battle to save doomed Halesowen fire station from the axe has cost taxpayers about £10,000.

West Midlands Fire Authority chairman Councillor John Edwards says he is "annoyed" they have to foot the bill.

He said the service faced millions of pounds of funding cutbacks due to reduced government payments.

Campaigners withdrew their bid for a judicial review into proposals to shut Halesowen fire station after failing to find the necessary funding to take their application to the High Court.

Councillor Edwards said: "It has cost us almost £10,000 in legal bills and officers' time that was unnecessary in my view."

"It has left me feeling very annoyed that taxpayers' money has been wasted in this way."

Halsowen & Rowley Regis MP James Morris, who backed the campaign, said: "I am surprised at the figures quoted on the legal costs incurred by the West Midlands Fire Service.

"They are obviously retaining very expensive lawyers. The group has sought all along to oppose the plans."

Fun day for the Jubilee

STAFF at a hotel in Dudley are preparing to host a fun day in its grounds to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee alongside a world record attempt.

The Village Hotel, in Castlegate Park, off Birmingham Road, is staging the event on Bank Holiday Monday, June 4.

Money raised from the event will go to the children's charity Promise Dreams. Anyone interested in having a craft or farmers stall can buy a pitch for £10.

For further information call the hotel on 0844 980 8039.

Store sign plan

A FURNITURE store in Kidderminster has applied for permission to install a new illuminated sign.

Bosses at SCS on the Crossley Retail Park have submitted a planning application to Wyre Forest District Council.

They want to put up a sign measuring about 37ft by 16ft.

Mother's animal ban downgraded after plea

A MOTHER-OF-FIVE will be allowed to keep any animal except for rabbits after a court downgraded a total ban on appeal.

Sara Davis was originally banned from keeping any pet for 10 years after rabbits in her care were found in "filthy hutches" and she failed to get them proper treatment for ear mites.

But at an appeal before Wolverhampton Crown Court a judge ruled there was no evidence to suggest any other animal in her care had suffered. The court was told last week she also had two dogs, three adult cats and a kitten. Davis, aged 31, of Bent Street, Brierley Hill, was told the 10-year ban on

her keeping rabbits would be upheld and she would not be able to appeal for five years.

She will now be permitted to keep her other animals, though the court warned she would remain "under close scrutiny" by the RSPCA.

The court heard five rabbits had been seized from her old home in Meadow Walk, Cradley Heath, after a visit by an RSPCA inspector last May.

Mrs Gaynor Sutton, on behalf of the RSPCA, said the animals had been kept in filthy cages with little food and water.

"Two of them were found to have severe encrustations around their ears. The cause

of this was found to be mites," she said.

"They were taken to an independent vet who said it was the worst case he had seen in 15 years." She said Davis had pleaded guilty to two charges of causing unnecessary suffering and a further two of not taking reasonable steps to ensure the rabbits were kept in a hygienic environment.

Dudley Magistrates Court had imposed the total ban on keeping animals alongside ordering her to carry out 50 hours community service and pay costs.

But Mrs Sutton said cats found at the home had been in "reasonable condition" and the dogs had not been at the property at

the time to check. Mr Nigel Stelling, appearing for Davis, said at the time his client had been moving house and she admitted care of the rabbits had slipped.

"It was a time of crisis for the family. They had been forced to find new accommodation due to a flood at the property," he said. "She sees the logic of the ban on keeping rabbits but the other animals were being cared for. She was returning to the house every day."

Judge Robin Onions said: "It would appear the magistrates decided on the total ban on the grounds that if one particular kind of animal has not been properly cared for there is more risk to others."

Shop's eggs-treme move to bring in ban is no yolk

A SHOP in the Dudley has imposed a ban on selling eggs to under-18s to help crack down on anti-social behaviour.

Staff at the Spar store, Lawnswood Road, Wordsley, introduced the strict ban after eggs sold to younger teenagers were thrown at a nearby house. Bosses said the rule, normally reserved for the sale of alcohol and cigarettes, had been supported by the local community.

Signs have now been put up at tills in the shop telling customers of the policy.

They read: "Due to recent activities in the local area we are unable to sell eggs to anyone under 18 years of age. Sorry for any inconvenience."

Discretion

Staff at the store said the scheme had been backed by local policing teams who even helped provide some of the signs.

Other Spar stores in the area said they had not introduced a ban but the sale of any item was left up to the discretion of shop staff.

Lawnswood Road store manager Sue Williams said they took action after problems.

She said: "We decided to take the step after there was an incident where eggs

were sold to 16-year-olds.

"Around 30 minutes later we were visited by the police who said the eggs had been thrown at a house. Since then we have followed this policy.

"It has sparked conversation among customers when they first see the signs saying people under 18 can't buy eggs," she added.

"Many of them just can't believe that we have had to put this policy in place but it was necessary."

"Once we explained to them the reason they understood why we had to do it and the scheme has been well-received."

Mrs Williams said: "It was a surprise when the police first came into the shop and told us what the eggs had been used for.

"We certainly did not want anything to like that happen again and so the decision was taken to put the rule in place."

She said: "We decided to take the step after there was an incident where eggs

Student's game success

A COMPUTER software student has celebrated success as his team won a contest to design their own game.

Adam Sherratt, aged 22, from Brierley Hill, was part of the team called Commando Kiwi which took part in the national competition held at the Gadget Show Live event in Birmingham. They were one of four teams formed after signing up to courses with tuition organisation Train2Game. The team's game, Last Chapters, is based on the gamebook Warlock on Firetop Mountain.



Paul Harborne of Sedgley, left, and Tim Jordan of Kingswinford with the replica Ghostbusters car which has been a labour of love for two and a half years

Ready to go ghost busting

THERE is something strange in the neighbourhood and it's taken hundreds of hours of work over two and a half years.

However, now mechanic Tim Jordan and car enthusiast Paul Harborne have unveiled the fruits of their labour, a replica of the famous car from the hit film Ghostbusters.

The 1960 Cadillac Miller-Meteor has been transformed into a replica of Ecto-1 complete with mock ghost-capturing equipment.

The car will be hired out for special occasions.

Mr Jordan said: "It looks fantastic. But it's not a job for the faint-hearted."

"It has not been an easy job by any stretch of the imagination. But to see the car finished and looking so good has made it more than worth it," added the 42-year-old.

The end of the project is also a poignant moment for the mechanic as it is the last car to be fixed up at his garage, Tricklicks, off Stallings Lane, Kingswinford.

He will now concentrate on the new business of renting out the eye-catching car.

Father-of-five Mr Harborne, 48, said: "The reaction we've had from people who have seen the car so far has been fantastic."

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Police plea to find missing man, 57

POLICE are appealing for help to find a 57-year-old man who went missing from his Halesowen home.

Alan Walker, who is epileptic, was reported missing from his home on New England, Hurst Green, on April 26.

He was last seen at a church where he plays the piano in Pargeter Road, Bearwood, on April 24. He left the church to catch the 123 bus to Blackheath.

He is white, 5ft 5ins and of medium build. He has a collar length brown hair with brown eyes and a moustache. Call police on 101.

Cyclists wanted for charity ride

CYCLISTS are wanted to saddle up and help raise thousands for charity.

The Severn Valley Cycle Challenge is on August 19 and those taking part can ride a 10 or 20-mile course.

It is organised by Acorns Children's Hospice. Last year's event raised around £10,000 was raised for the charity.

Cyclists wishing to take part can call 0844 984 0405 or log on to www.acorns.org.uk/cycle

Plea over robbery

POLICE are appealing for witnesses to find three men suspected of robbery in Dudley. A man was robbed of his mobile phone near the Village Hotel, off Birmingham Road.

The tree had followed him on to the 74E bus. It happened on March 12.

Attacker is jailed for stamping on victim

A MAN who attacked a pub customer after a night out in Halesowen has been jailed for two years.

Simon Field was out with friends at the Rose & Crown on the B4183 Hagley Road on July 2.

Field, aged 30, of Chesshire Close, Stourport, saw victim John Young standing outside a Chinese takeaway, and the pair argued.

Mr David Swinnerton, prosecuting, told Wolverhampton Crown Court: "Field had left the pub and got into his car. He pulled up next to Young and an argument followed."

Field slapped his victim before knocking the food from his hands. Mr Swinnerton added: "The victim had tried to walk off but more abuse followed."

"The defendant punched the victim. He was also kicked to the head and stamped on." Mr Young suffered cuts and bruises.

Mr Stephen Blower, defending, said: "He ran with the wrong crowd at the time." Field admitted attempting to cause grievous bodily harm.

Coffee morning

A PLANT sale and coffee morning will take place at a church on May 12.

It will run from 10am until midday at Warley Woods Methodist Church, in Abbey Road, Smethwick. There will also be stalls with toys, books and bric-a-brac.

£250,000 renovation work right on track for railway

THE SEVERN Valley Railway has reached the end of the track of a major £250,000 renovation project, marking the occasion with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Well-wishers and invited guests emerged from carriages pulled by the 1930s Great Western tank, at the mouth of the 480-yard long Bewdley Tunnel.

by Andrew Turton

The railway's visitor service manager David Mee said: "Everyone could 'breathe a huge sigh of relief' that all the works had been completed on time and to budget.

"It has been a labour of love for everyone who has been part of this project," he said.

"They have invested so much time into it. We have to pay tribute to them and we could not have done it without their dedication."

Drainage, which was first installed when the line between Bewdley and Kidderminster was built in 1878, had completely broken up in several places.

Contractors worked against the clock to ensure that the works were largely completed to allow trains to use the tunnel for the February half term holidays.

Among the volunteers helping to lay the track was retired construction worker Bob Clift, from Bewdley.

The 65-year-old, said: "Having worked in construction it wasn't really a problem and I found it fine. It's been a good project to work on."

Around 100 workers, half of which were volunteers, took part in the project, contending with difficult conditions in the dark and cramped confines of the narrow single bore tunnel.

They also often faced sub-zero temperatures and logistical headaches of getting equipment and materials to the isolated stretch.



Front, Holdings Company Chairman Nick Paul, with Bob Clift and Nick Ralls. Centre, Matthew Harris, Phil Crosby and Neil Dancer. Back, Dave Evans and Kevin Cronin



The Great Western emerges from the tunnel, as part of the celebrations for the official reopening of the Bewdley tunnel on the Severn Valley Railway line



Guests at Kidderminster station before the trip which took them through the newly renovated tunnel

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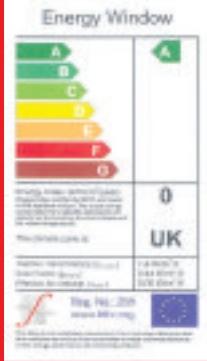
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thechronicle

The winning entrepre-nurses



Winning nurses Mary Warrilow, front left, Kris Jones and, back from left, Shirley Lippitt, Joanne Dodd-Stokes and Lisa Emms

THEY may be the latest line of business entrepreneurs – but they're not aiming to get rich quick.

A group of Dudley nurses are "going it alone" as a social enterprise community interest company and have already won extra business in Sandwell and more than £100,000 funding for new clinics. Within a few months of launching they are about to

take on extra staff and have won a national award from the British Journal of Nursing.

The four nurses and one administrative worker, who used to work for NHS Dudley, went "live" with LymphCare UK in November.

They have contracts with the NHS to care for around 1,000 patients in Dudley who have lymphoedema.

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LETTERS**thechronicle**

Inensitive views on parenting

I AM writing regarding Mr Brian Saunders comments in last weeks chronicle.

I am a lesbian, in a committed and stable civil partnership and I have to say I am not interested in the argument as to whether to legalise "gay marriage", as it merely seems to be a matter of semantics.

I consider myself to be married in the truest sense of the word. I have made a deep and lasting commitment to my partner for as long as we live.

The views expressed by you are insensitive to many apart from homosexual couples, especially with regard to your view that because gay couples

Same sex marriages as good as any other

IN response to Brian Saunders letter (April 19).

I have to disagree that a marriage between a man and a woman is the best environment to raise children.

I fail to understand how he thinks a Marriage between same sex couples will sabotage our society more than a "straight marriage". Same sex couples have shown they are capable of raising a loving family and have more experience about teaching their children to value diversity and appreciate other people's beliefs.

Trying to ban "gay marriage" is just another sign homophobia still exists and has chosen to rebrand itself among people who refuse to treat other men and women such as myself as equals.

STE BARKER
Halesowen

EDWARD DAVIES, Cobden Street, Stourbridge

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

LETTERS to the Editor

POST

Halesowen Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial, 51-53
Queen Street, Wolverhampton
WV1 1ES

E-MAIL

dudleychrons@
expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Claims on NHS from Tories misleading

THE TORIES lay the misleading claim, that despite radical changes to the NHS, it will still be "free at the point of use". Less is said about the fact that not all services, currently free, will be available.

Some services are already furtively being listed as not necessary on the grounds of being either "cosmetic" or "ineffective". Croydon has a catalogue of 34 procedures, which don't have to be offered to patients. These include knee, hip and cataract surgery.

Services may be restricted or denied, despite GP referral for treatment. Vetting procedures are carried out by privately run companies - "referral gateways" - before a patient is allowed or not, to visit a hospital consultant.

Much depends upon the company's assessment, as to who is allowed through the gateway. The procedure is growing in parts of the country. This government is moving, by stealth, to a market health care system. Public indifference and obliviousness are two factors to be overcome, if the NHS is to remain free and accessible.

EDWARD DAVIES, Cobden Street, Stourbridge

cannot naturally procreate, their life is meaningless and has no future.

How insulting this is to infertile couples, young widows and widowers, couples who have chosen never to have children, not to mention those who have chosen celibacy.

The sad fact is, that although our children initially had a mother and a father, they never experienced safe, loving, or supportive parenting and unfortunately, they have suffered significant harm because of this. Simply being heterosexual or being married does not automatically make one a good parent.

Name and address supplied

Singles forgotten by all the politicians

It seems to me as a single person that all political talk and issues are aimed at "the family".

It is the "family" that is of great concern to politicians, it is the "family" that is suffering hard times at the moment, it is the "family" that is having to struggle. What a load of nonsense!

Never, ever, do you hear how single people are struggling financially and they are seldom spoken of by politicians.

Single people make up a lot of society, they pay taxes, pay VAT, they work hard and are completely forgotten. Single people in their millions in the UK need to use their vote - against the parties who use "family" as a political vote winner.

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thechronicle

Meeting on high rise life

TENANTS of high rise homes in Dudley can air their views on their estates at a meeting.

The next High Rise Living Forum is on May 8 and anyone is welcome.

They can raise issues and suggest ways of improving the flats.

The meeting will be at Saltwells Education Centre, Bowring Green Road, Dudley from 7pm to 9pm. Tea and coffee will be served from 6.30pm.

Anyone wanting to attend should call 01384 815168 before the meeting as it may be subject to change.

Death shatters family

THE FAMILY of a worker who was killed when an overhead crane crushed him against a pillar said their lives have been shattered by the tragedy as an inquest jury returned a verdict of accidental death.

Wilfred Williams, aged 57, of Ashtree Road, Tividale, died as he worked on a crane at C Brown and Sons, Wedmore Road, Brierley Hill.

He and colleague Ross Darby were working 20ft-high in the bucket of a "cherry picker" to replace the end plate of the crane.

Mr Williams, an experienced engineer, had got out of the bucket to tighten some bolts, and then crossed

over to an adjacent gantry in the next bay.

The inquest in Smethwick heard another crane coming along the track crushed him, resulting in internal haemorrhaging and shock due to pelvic crush and blunt force injuries.

Black Country coroner Robin Balmain said Mr Darby had told the inquest he did not know why his colleague had moved to the adjacent gantry.

The hearing had also been told there was a "20ft rule" where no crane would operate within six metres of maintenance work but Mr Balmain said it appeared this was not an "absolute rule". And halting operations at adjacent bays was done on discretion. In a statement, Mr Williams' son Adam

said: "We are pleased the coroner's inquiry has answered some of our questions as to what happened on the day my father died doing the job he loved for the last 14 years. He was a loving and caring father and husband and our lives have been shattered as a result of his death."

Graham Brown, chairman of C Brown and Sons, said: "On behalf of the company, I would like to firstly state our thoughts and sincere condolences are with the family and friends of Wilf Williams.

"We are acutely aware that we can say little of comfort to the family for their tragic loss. Wilf was a valued, respected and much loved friend and colleague to everyone at the company and is greatly missed."

Mothers wanted to help breastfeeding scheme

scheme. Trained buddies are also based at the hospitals in the borough helping new mothers.

Specific information on technique is given to mothers as part of the buddies scheme as well as details on where to find baby-friendly places in the area where breastfeeding is allowed.

For more details, people are asked to contact one of five children's centres in the borough by visiting www.childrenscentres.dudley.gov.uk

New mothers looking for advice and support can call the family information service on 01384 814398.

Training has been assessed by Unicef's Baby Friendly project.

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Region's Scout numbers showing a big increase

Wall plaque for Tyson



Rose Beedles with the plaque to Tyson the dog

A PLAQUE has been put up in memory of a much-loved dog which was stabbed to death.

Donations flooded in since Tyson was attacked by Simon Follos in Abbey Street, Lower Gornal, with more than £700 raised.

The plaque is on a wall in Abbey Street, near the spot where the attack happened. It reads: "Tyson

Bird – devoted, faithful and much-loved companion to your loving dad Wayne. You will always be remembered by all of your family and friends in Gornal".

Follois, aged 38, attacked the dog near his home in Abbey Street, Lower Gornal. Rose Beedles, Mr Bird's aunt, has plans to also use the money to fix hooks outside shops to hold dog leads.

MORE THAN 300 youngsters in the Black Country and Staffordshire have joined the Scouts over the past year, helping boost national numbers.

Figures from The Scout Association show 182 new Scouts signed up in the Black Country in the last 12 months pushing the total to 6,119.

In Staffordshire, 150 signed up. The total number in the region stands at 9,074. Officials said this represented growth of more than three per cent in the Black Country and nearly two per cent in Staffordshire.

The increase has helped raise total UK membership of the movement to 525,327.

Reopening

One of the biggest increases has been in Stourbridge, where 134 new members have joined in the last year. Officials said the rise had been helped by the reopening of the Scout group in Kinver followed by the opening of Beaver and Cub Scout groups at Halfpenny Green, near Wolverhampton.

An annual census released by the Scout movement reveals 55 Explorer Scouts, youngsters aged 14 to 18, were signed up in the Black Country and 15 in Staffordshire. Nationally, 2,544 have joined up in the past year. Group Scout Leader for Kinver Martin Jones said the Beaver, Cub and Scout groups for the village were presently fully subscribed with 90 members in all.

Mr Jones, aged 38, said: "Kinver has excellent facilities for scouting, including its own camp which is used by groups all across the region."

Ladies' night for charity

A LADIES' night is being laid on to raise cash for two charities.

Debbie Price is organising the event at Station Hotel, Castle Hill, Dudley, on June 15.

Acts like Double Impact, Armani, Randy Knight and Black Stallion will be appear. Proceeds will go to Compton Hospice and brain injury charity Headway.

Bank Holiday Collections

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Pigeons feeding outside Charles' loft which was near to Bilston Fire Station



The Dicken medal awarded to brave animals



A model of Winkie the first pigeon to receive the Dicken medal



Charles Purslow's and his Pigeon Loft, prior to its move to Black Country Living Museum

Lofty status for the pigeons that were bred for racing

A BLACK COUNTRY man's fancy, more often than not, was a pigeon, with local men in the late 19th and early 20th century cooing sweet nothings over their birds.

Pigeon keeping was a popular pastime in the Black Country, not only for the sport of racing but also as a source of extra meat and eggs.

Pigeon fanciers lavished attention on their feathered friends in the hope they hatched into champion racers or bred a much-prized pedigree "squeaker", and brightly painted pigeon lofts were a distinctive feature of the landscape.

Top of the pigeon-fancying pecking order was Charles Purslow who achieved celebrity-status in Bilston pigeon flying circles.

Over a 70 year period his flock won an array of awards. Mr Purslow knew all his birds by name, his favourites being those

who won the most races and two of his favourites were "Peggy" and "Bilston Blue".

He would often take his tea up to the loft and wait all day for the birds to return.

For almost 100 years Charles' pigeon loft nestled next to Bilston Fire Station, which is now alongside the Black Country Route, housing around 30 birds.

Charles used to race on the southern circuit, which he preferred as this included channel crossing races.

Later the club changed to flying on the north circuit. They would start short training races from March, taking the pigeons on

the transporter on a Friday for the start of the race on Saturday. The winner of the race would then be announced on Saturday night.

Mr Purslow was also a member of the national pigeon service during the war, in which the birds were used to take messages into occupied territory.

Clare Weston, Curator of Domestic and Cultural Life said: "Charles' flock did its bit for the war effort. During the Second World War his pigeons were conscripted as messenger birds, along with 20,000 other pigeons, into the AIF Pigeon Service."

There were 32 pigeons awarded the Dicken Medal, the animal Victoria Cross, for gallantry or devotion during the Second World War. The first recipients of the award, in December 1943, were three pigeons, serving with the Royal Air Force.

So next time you're in the garden, take another look at a pigeon on your bird table – his ancestor may well have changed the course of history.



An early 20th century trophy, won by Charles Purslow and his father before him

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Transformations



ALL-ON-4

A treatment pioneered in Portugal that offers denture wearers teeth that never have to be taken out for cleaning is arriving at the clinic in the New Year. Known as All-on-4, the system embraces implant technology with just four securing posts supporting a titanium framework of teeth.



And coming soon, the clever teeth you don't have to take out to clean ...

REMOVABLE DENTURES

ARE they real, or are they false? With cutting-edge technology it's hard to know the difference between natural teeth and clever dentures.

Clinic principal Steve Burchell, whose work has attracted interest from as far as away as Spain, the Isle of Skye, Eastbourne and North Wales, is driving hard a message of hope, which is helping to change the image of false teeth and the people who wear them.

Mr Burchell DipCDT RCS(Eng), says: "It's my experience that there are too many people putting up with ill-fitting dentures. With lips that are pinched, lower dentures with excessive mobility allowing food ingress between the plate and the gums, sore spots and teeth that do not function well, it's no wonder so many wearers feel at a loss in their search for solutions to their problems.

But the clinician, who has earned a country-wide reputation as a 'smile mechanic', is buoyant about the future for solutions with dentures.

He passionately embraces what he calls "the denture revolution" offering traditional denture wearers precise fittings with the latest injection moulding techniques and natural-looking teeth that are functional too.

"We desperately want people to know there is a solution for most problems. The clinic has a vast wealth of experience to draw upon and we promise to give as much time as people need to resolve issues with the best clinical outcomes," Mr Burchell adds.

IMPLANT RETAINED

A GROWING number of satisfied patients have found a renewed confidence by ditching their traditional dentures for implant retained dentures.

The procedure that became an established form of dentistry in the United States in recent years can now be carried out with the Denture Clinic – and the transition can mean new teeth, which can function just as if they were your own.

Fixed with small titanium screw-like mechanisms that are set, and eventually fused into the bone, they act an effective substitute for the roots of your missing teeth.

Implantologist, Mr Jon Pugh BDS MSc, with whom the clinic has a long-established working relationship, undertakes all the surgical procedures.

Research reveals that as little as two dental implants in the lower jaw will significantly stabilise the prosthetic. A similar procedure can secure the upper teeth, normally with four implant fixings.

The dentures can be snapped on and off their fixings by the patient and provide a guaranteed solution for stabilisation problems.

Advantages include a harmonious fit with gums, the possibility of improved speech and taste, natural chewing function and bite, no more tilting and the end of pressure spot discomfort, restored chewing ability, improved diet, the end of further jaw bone erosion and the smile of your dreams.

ULTRA SUCTION



The Ultra Suction system is suitable for both upper and lower prosthetics

Suction offers a new solution

A cutting-edge development to help resolve the stability problems faced by thousands of denture wearers is being offered at the Denture Clinic.

The invention has the potential to improve the life quality of patients who have previously experienced long-term problems with ill-fitting dentures.

Prosthetics are held in place by tiny valve-operated suction devices which are built into the dentures.

A clever diaphragms principle, triggered by the bite pressure on patients' gums, creates a 'sucking' vacuum between the soft-tissue lining and the prosthetic.

Expectations

Mr Burchell, whose clinic attracts patients from as far as Spain, the Isle of Skye and the Isle of Anglesey, adds: "The denture revolution is evolving at a pace. In recent times we have seen what I can only describe as strident steps forward with implant-retained dentures coming into main-stream dentistry, clever technology which allows excellent fitting outcomes and now the Ultra Suction product."

"Implant dentistry is not suitable for everyone, neither is it all patients' first preference. The beauty of this technology from New Zealand is that it offers excellent denture retainer qualities without surgery.

"We have always endeavoured to be on the very cusp of clinical development and this is another tool in our commitment to always try to deliver results which are greater than patient expectations," adds Mr Burchell.

thechronicle

Fly-tippers ignore blocks put in to stop dumping

DJ Stuart reopens home



DJ Stuart Maconie opens refurbished Sunfield school with the principal Amanda Jones, Ian Jones, Mark Brocklebank and Andrew Prosser

A £300,000 refurbishment at a home in the Midlands for children with severe learning difficulties has been officially reopened by a radio presenter.

The facility at Sunfield School and children's home in Cleint, near Stourbridge, was reopened by Stuart Maconie who presents a BBC 6 music show.

Birch House caters for children whose complex needs mean they

MORE rubbish, including at least 20 car tyres, has been dumped on land near a Dudley street just weeks after council chiefs installed barriers in a bid to stop fly-tippers.

Yobs have been setting fire to the tyres which are now scattered down a 40ft slope to a disused railway line in Pensnett.

Household waste in bin bags, plastic and cardboard is among the litter dumped recently.

The waste has been dumped on land off Gibbons Lane where previous fly-tipping incidents were reported. Concrete blocks as barriers had been placed at the end of the lane to stop vehicles. The huge blocks had been placed in response to complaints from neighbours of the land.

They say they are concerned culprits have now switched to dumping on land just off the roadway down the bank.

It leads from the former line operated by Pensnett Mineral Railway Company which ran from Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal at Ashwood, serving various collieries and factories including Round Oak steel works.

They say the lane off Pensnett High Street is obscured by high hedges allowing fly-tippers to evade capture.

Resident John Palmer said: "People are still dumping down there which is costing the taxpayer each time the council has to come here to clear up."

Dudley Council's director of urban environment, John Millar, said it was working to tackle the issue.

"It is illegal and causes an eyesore for people living nearby."

Flower club meeting date

THE NEXT meeting of Halesowen Flower Club is at Shenstone Theatre on Wednesday May 10.

Demonstrator for the evening will be Beryl Griffiths, with the theme of Upstairs Downstairs.

It starts at 7.30pm, and entry is £4.

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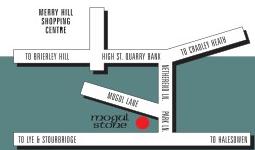
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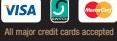
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Campaigners say theatre could train future stars

Nicole has got talent



A star in the making – Nicole Appleby of Wolverhampton recording in the studios of Raindance Music Ltd, Amblecote

CAMPAIGNERS battling to save Dudley's former Hippodrome say it could provide an ideal training ground for the next generation performers.

The Friends of Dudley Hippodrome are appealing to schools to back their campaign to get the building reopened.

Retired college lecturer Geoff Fitzpatrick, who is helping to lead the campaign, believes students could use the old theatre to hone their stage skills. He said: "I believe the Dudley Hippodrome has a lot to offer them. It would be great place for them to learn all about theatre."

"The stage has seen so many great people over the years. It would be nice if it could see the next generation of performers too."

"I am hoping all of the schools will get involved and support the campaign."

Dudley Council bought the theatre building, which was a Gala Bingo hall in more recent years, in 2009 but it has been lying empty ever since.

The area has been earmarked by the authority's leisure and tourism chiefs for a multi-million pound regeneration project.

But council bosses say they may be forced to demolish the theatre as there has been no interest in anyone taking the building on.

The newly formed Friends group wants to not only to save the building but also restore the site as a major entertainment venue.

Anyone who is interested in helping the campaigners can email gffitzpatrick@hotmail.co.uk or call 07875 901369.

Plans for block of flats

A FOUR-STOREY block of flats could be built in Stourbridge under new plans.

Proposals for 12 one-bedroom apartments in Worcester Street have been lodged with council chiefs.

Under the plans, the flats would be on land formerly used by Hanbury Nurseries.

The site has been lying empty since 2007 but now Richard Homes Ltd of Stourbridge has submitted plans.

A 15-YEAR-OLD singing sensation who won the Midlands Got Talent competition at Netherton's Champions Church is now recording her debut CD.

Nicole Appleby fought off competition from more than 100 other hopefuls to win time with production company Raindance Music Ltd, based at Amblecote Christian Centre, Brettell Lane, Stourbridge.

Her interpretation of the Fontella Bass 60s' soul classic Rescue Me

dazzled the judges at the annual charity fundraiser, modelled on television's Britain's Got Talent.

The teenager is now hoping to impress music scouts with her covers compilation album as she plans a career in performing arts.

Nicole, of Low Hill Crescent, Low Hill, Wolverhampton, and a pupil at the city's North East Academy, admits she was stunned by her success. "I still can't believe I won. The standard was really high."

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Bosses go to capital for meeting with Vince Cable

OWNER managers from a Dudley company have met Business Secretary Vince Cable to urge him to do more to make sure firms get loans vital to their success.

Kevin O'Toole and Laura Loveys are directors of Eurocraft Enclosures.

They joined Dudley North MP Ian Austin for the meeting in Westminster last week. Eurocraft employs more than 100 people and has a full order book but the directors say its opportunities for further growth and job creation have been restricted by the lack of available finance. The directors raised their concerns with Mr Cable and questioned him about the Government's plans to help

manufacturing small and medium enterprise (SME) companies.

Mr O'Toole, the managing director, said: "Eurocraft are typical of many SME companies who need access to affordable finance options, which is an essential tool to help secure and deliver new business."

"In the absence of acceptable lending criteria, we have had to be creative in self-funding growth, but this is not sustainable."

Eurocraft designs, engineers, manufactures and supplies telecommunication housings for companies such as BT and Virgin. Mr Austin set up the Westminster meeting after visiting Eurocraft in December.

£1,400 in wife's memory

A WIDOWER who ran the London Marathon in memory of his wife who died just a month after their son was born raised more than £1,400.

Matt Johnson, aged 38, of Rowley Regis completed the run to raise funds for the Cystic Fibrosis Trust in a bid to help them find a cure for the disease from which his wife Karen suffered.

He finished the run in four hours 41 minutes and was cheered across the finishing line by his number one fan, his son Harry, who had made his own "Go Dad Go" sign.

Matt Johnson Karen Johnson

Matt, who lives in Churchill Drive and is a web manager at Sandwell Council, aimed to raise £1,000, but has already had £1,429 in donations and is expecting more.

He said: "After originally hoping to raise £500 for the charity I've been overwhelmed at the support of friends, family, colleagues and strangers who have given their money for this cause which is very close to my heart." Karen, who was diagnosed with Cystic Fibrosis as a child, died aged 32 in 2004 just a month after Harry was born. The disease affects the internal organs, especially the lungs and digestive system. Matt said the experience of running the marathon was one he would never forget.

"The crowds were amazing – constantly clapping and cheering and shouting out my name, which I'd written on the front of my running vest," he said. "At mile 25 I knew I'd got family waiting to cheer me along to the final mile. Harry had made a placard with "Go Dad Go", it was very emotional seeing them and it helped block out my aching legs and go that last mile past Big Ben, past Buckingham Palace and down The Mall to the finish line."

Classes in lifesaving

SWIMMERS can learn life-saving skills with a nationally recognised course at the Crystal Leisure Centre, Stourbridge. The Royal Life Saving Society (RLSS) national pool lifeguard course runs from May 21 to 25 with an exam on May 26.

Participants will receive a course manual and tuition and will be expected to take an exam. Those who complete the course successfully will obtain an official lifeguard qualification. Participants must be over 16. Sessions run 8am to 5.30pm. Call 01384 812800 or visit www.dudley.gov.uk/sport

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thechronicle

Double decker tribute as Angus takes last journey

MORE than 500 mourners turned out to pay their final respects to a popular Dudley councillor, who died suddenly at the age of 67.

The funeral of Dudley Council's regeneration chief, Councillor Angus Adams, was at St Mary's Church, Oldswinford. Mourners began arriving more than an hour before the service started.

Party differences were put to one side as councillors from across the political spectrum paid tribute to a "dedicated" man remembered for his sense of humour.

Around 550 people turned out in total and as a mark of respect to Councillor Adams - who was also chairman of Centro - representatives from the organisation arrived in a double decker bus.

It remained parked up outside the church throughout the funeral service, which was led by Rev Ruth Atkinson.

Chief Executive of Dudley Council John Polychronakis gave a Bible reading before Councillor Adams' grand-daughters Amy and Jessica read poems. The final hymn was Jerusalem and the musical piece Highland Cathedral was played to mark Councillor Adam's Scottish heritage.

A private service was then held at Stourbridge Crematorium. A tribute was read out by his sister Carol who said her brother, christened Arthur, had been raised in Aberdeen.

She said the family did not have much money but had wanted for nothing. The family had later moved to England and it was there Councillor Adams received the nickname he would come to be known by.

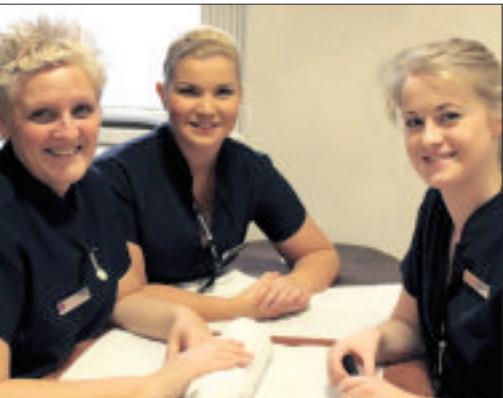
Sound of music coming

KINVER will be alive with the Sound of Music when performers take to the stage next month.

Kinver Light Operatic Society will present the musical from May 14 to 19 at Edgcliff High School.

For tickets contact Jean Mills on 01384 836963 or email peter.twankey@blueyonder.co.uk

A test of beauty skills



Halesowen College students, from left, Claire Wade, Beth Bryan and Rachel Hickman, preparing for a beauty skills competition.

BEAUTY therapy students from Halesowen College are busy polishing their skills ahead of a Midlands talent contest next month.

Beth Bryan, Rachel Hickman and Claire Wade are among several Halesowen students due to take part in the regional heat of the Worldskills competition, being held at Birmingham NEC on May 13 and 14.

Students have to carry out three treatments, a half leg wax, facial and deluxe manicure, in the hope of progressing to a national final.

Beth, aged 22, is a former pupil of

Heathfield School, while 17-year-old Rachel went to Thorns School and Community College.

Michelle Trevis, beauty lecturer at Halesowen College, said: "They all have been working really hard on their techniques for this competition."

"It is a chance for our students to compete against others and show off what they have learnt."

"The contest will also be good experience for them to be able to work under pressure and to a deadline."

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Man jailed for £40,000 cannabis set up in unit

On the tracks of success



Cradley Heath Model Railway Club founder Doug Grazier with the US Four Corners layout at the Dudley model railway exhibition, Stourbridge

More than 1,100 made tracks to a Black Country railway exhibition.

Visitors to the Bonded Warehouse in Stourbridge were entertained by model trains running around 12 different layouts. There were demonstrations for families stopping by the attraction as well as trade stands for the real enthusiasts. The event, in its 24th year, was organ-

ised by the Stourbridge Railway Society.

Money raised from the exhibition will go towards improvement work at the Bonded Warehouse in Canal Street. Chris Dyche, aged 68, one of the organisers, said: "It was an excellent event and we are already getting ready for our next one which will be our 25th."

A BLACK COUNTRY man who allowed a £400,000-a-year cannabis farm to operate in an industrial unit he was renting has been jailed for two years.

David Penn, of John F Kennedy Walk, Tipton, was paid £6,400 for six months' use of the £800-a-month property in Stag Industrial Estate, Oxford Street, Bilston, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

Prosecutor Miss Helena Miller said he had taken out a 12-month lease on the unit to supposedly make garden ornaments.

But, when police raided it on June 21 last year, they found hidden behind a false wall 320 cannabis plants growing in eight tents equipped with special power supply, watering arrangements and high-intensity lighting.

Miss Miller said experts estimated the farm could produce three crops a year with a street value of £400,000.

Police established 48-year-old Penn was renting the industrial unit. He handed himself in on July 28. Mr Richard Dawson, defending, insisted: "He was acting as a dupe for others more sophisticated than him."

He had been unemployed for some time and was trying to make a go of his own business, so closed his eyes to what might have been going on behind the false wall.

Penn who had previous convictions for dishonesty, admitted allowing premises to be used for cannabis production.

It was estimated Penn made £6,400 from the cannabis farm deal. He was ordered to repay £1.

Macabre history tour

HISTORIANS are preparing to tell the story of a Black Country cemetery during its 130-year old history.

A new guided tour will be taking place at Lye and Wollescoote Cemetery. The event, in Cemetery Road, will be on May 5 at 11pm and 2pm led by authors Jean Weston and Marlene Price who wrote a book detailing its history.

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- Thu: Today is left free to explore Street and we return home on Friday.

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The least traffic is on Sunday evenings so it's a good time to enjoy the Lights.

We return to the hotel later this evening - and you could always enjoy a nightcap or two in the hotel bar - or try one of the many other hotels just outside on the Promenade.

Day 1 Monday: Wake to a hearty breakfast (or something lighter, there's plenty of options) then we go up to the Lake District where you'll have time to yourself in Bowness and Ambleside before we leave the Lakes for home - arriving back early evening.

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Price includes: Hotel on D/B/B basis and all coach travel and trips out as stated. Single Supp £20

Dates: Sun 2nd and 16th September £79

Palace Shows Royal Jewels

During the Summer opening of Buckingham Palace this year there will be a spectacular exhibition of the Royal Family's Diamonds to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

This sparkling showcase of diamonds features a series of fantastic jewels that used to decorate regalia, bought for personal use or simply inherited in the passing down of gifts from previous generations of Royals. This exhibition is a must-see!

Join our 2-day coach break...

Join our coach on Sunday morning for London. With a Brunch & comfort stop on route, we should arrive Knightsbridge early afternoon and the coach will set down close to Harrods so you can enjoy a few hours shopping plus time for lunch. Later we go on to our hotel for overnight stay. Thistle Hotel Heathrow.

Monday: After breakfast we leave the hotel for our pre-booked visit to Buckingham Palace. The fabulous State Rooms are lavishly furnished with some of the greatest treasures from the Royal Collection PLUS this year only, there's a special display of the Royal Jewels. After the Palace we board the coach for Covent Garden - a myriad of unusual shops and those famous street entertainers. We leave London for home late afternoon

Price includes: coach travel, hotel, full breakfast and entrance to Buckingham Palace. Single Supp £20

Departs: Sun 9th September £89

0151 652 2222

**SINGLE LADIES**

Guys Text n' Chat. Text in now and chat to local people. Send : CHAT207 To : 65125. Or call 0906 635 0510.

(T&Cs below)

5FT 1ins female, brown hair, blue eyes, medium build, seeks male, 40-50, honest, caring, trustworthy, down to earth and bubbly. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 388741 ☎

NATALIE 30, attractive, size 12, black, seeking male for romantic fun. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 388741 ☎

SUE petite blonde, curly size 8, outgoing, cultured, enjoys cosy night cuddles, seeking loving male to make me feel special. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 388691

ANN very attractive female, N/S, positive attitude to life, WLTM similar kind male with a lot of get up and go for romance and fun. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 388959

I'M Jayne a very slim attractive dark haired female, 34yrs, seeking someone special to spend quality times and fall head over hills in love with. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 388963

NICKY looking for attractive male, 48-55yrs for fun, good times and relationship. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 388393

DOROTHY shy female new to the dating circuit and generally an all round nice person, looking for similar male to love. Pls call. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 388117

CARLY beautiful slim brunette looking for naughty mature male 50-70yrs for fun. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 376569

JANE 40's, blonde blue eyed petite build, with ties, WLTM understanding talk, caring man for daytime meets. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 375141

HOME alone with no one to call my own! 38y old naughty girl looking for fun. Can travel. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 363377 ☎

MANDY 36, size 10, looking for relationship with open-minded man. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 363017 ☎

TERRI 39, attractive in great shape, blonde, blue eyes, seeking many professional to enjoy fun. Call me to find out more. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 387061

ANGIE 36, likes cosy nights in/out, country walks, sensitive, caring, loyal, spiritual, seeks male to share life with. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 386885 ☎

35YR old female, seeks intelligent, down to earth male, 50-75 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 382927 ☎

FEMALE looking for gent, 65-70, caring, loving and independent. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 378295

50YR old female, seeks male for fun and socialising. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 233580

KIND romantic, loving lady, 43, slight disability, seeks genuine male for romance. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 387631

LADY widow, 58, slim brown hair, blue eyes, seeks smart intelligent, easygoing man with GSOH who enjoys conversations, days out, short breaks, meals out. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 387247

NICOLE attractive, blonde, green eyes, young 51, professional own home, 2 boys, loves jazz, countryside, dogs, seeks genuine male. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 390244 ☎

**FEMININE**

romantic, loving lady, 43, slight disability, seeks genuine male for romance. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 387189

(T&Cs below)

WIDOW 70, genuine, kind, caring, laidback, seeking male for friendship. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 387013

(T&Cs below)

EASYGOING down to earth female, likes cooking, exploring new things in life, seeks male. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 386893 ☎

(T&Cs below)

39YR old single female, hurt in past, animal lover, likes most things, seeking genuine male for good companion. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 386893 ☎

(T&Cs below)

CURVY red haired female, hurt in past seeks older male to buy her flowers and mend her broken heart. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 386887 ☎

(T&Cs below)

FEMALE looking for stocky male, 50-60 to share a happy life. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 386169 ☎

(T&Cs below)

WIDOW genuine, 70, kind, caring, N/S, seeks male for friendship, relationship, holidays and outings. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 303133

(T&Cs below)

FUN loving lady, outgoing, honest, caring, likes socialising, seeks older male, 50-70. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 383325 ☎

(T&Cs below)

LITTLE bit nice and definitely a little bit naughty! Imaginative curly blonde seeks male for kisses and cuddles. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 363428 ☎

(T&Cs below)

TALL curly female, 36dd, loves music, looking for fun and romance with dark male. Give me a call. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 359238 ☎

(T&Cs below)

LONG haired blonde, 37, enjoys meals out but would love to cook a romantic meal for the man of her dreams. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 361076 ☎

(T&Cs below)

RACHEL 38, slim, attractive, works full time, seeks sensible, funny gent for friendship, hopefully relationship. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 361592 ☎

(T&Cs below)

MALE 46, medium build, short hair, N/S, lonely, not tires, in past, varied interests, sports, DIY, seeks female, 21-65. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 385783

(T&Cs below)

41YR old male, 6ft, dark hair, likes cosy nights in and good times out, seeks female to share good times with, maybe more. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 369663 ☎

(T&Cs below)

MALE 45, 5ft 7ins, medium build, short hair, N/S, not, honest, likes sports, cinema, countryside, DIY, seeks female, 20-60 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 388938 ☎

(T&Cs below)

GENUINE male, 54, own home, seeks female, any age for fun. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 368887 ☎

(T&Cs below)

57YR old male, affable, good looking, loyal, caring, seeks similar mature female to end lonely times and become soul mates. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 387009 ☎

(T&Cs below)

ROMANTIC white male, 46, 5ft 11ins, likes meals out, cinema, seeks female for good times. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 362929

(T&Cs below)

BLACK tanned female, trendy, 46, GSOH, likes walks, pubs, nights in, seeks male. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 384852 ☎

(T&Cs below)

39YR old single male, seeks genuine female for friendship, possible relationship. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 388049 ☎

(T&Cs below)

MALE 58, 5ft 8ins, medium build, short hair, GSOH, seeks female, 50-60 to share happiness and life with. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 370649 ☎

(T&Cs below)

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MALE 34, attractive, 5ft 10ins, blue eyes, blond hair, seeks slim male for relationship. Single mum welcome. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 311892 ☎

(T&Cs below)

28YR oil blonde, seeks fun loving, adventurous male for relationship. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 380918 ☎

(T&Cs below)

MALE 34, attractive, 5ft 10ins, blue eyes, blond hair, seeks slim male for relationship. Any area, can travel. Tel No: 0907 004 4190 Box No: 311892 ☎

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Manchester United

Museum & Stadium Tour

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Organised by Omega Holidays, ABTA V4782. Subject to availability. Subject to minimum numbers.
*Please note: a discount of £4 per child from the adult price of £39.95pp applies to all children aged 5-15 years old inclusive at the date of entry to the Museum & Stadium Tour.

thechronicle

Bowling
shield is
presented

**PELSALL 'E'
TOWNSWOMEN**

THE annual Federation Dinner was again held at the Terrace Restaurant, Brownhills. Members enjoyed a delicious meal and the usual lively roll call of the 16 guilds forming the South Staffordshire Federation.

Margaret Worrall and Flora Petty were presented with the Federation Bowls Shield by chairman Shirley Aulton. Entertainment was by Lisa Jayne Smith as 'Marie Lloyd', a late substitute for the absent speaker.

Bridgemere Garden World and Dagfields Craft & Antique Centre were ideal locations for a trip on a dull, showery April day.

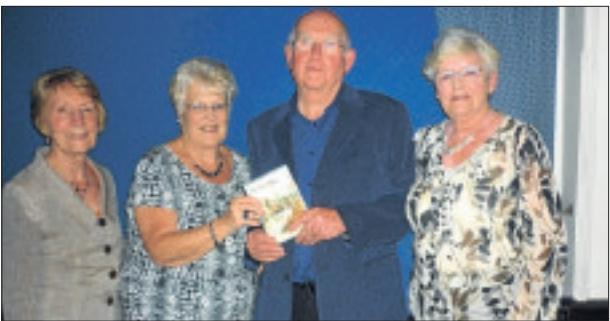
The formal part of the meeting on April 19 concluded with the presentation of a certificate and badge to Brenda Dyke in recognition of 25 years membership.

Jim Wall of Bloxwich Research & Metal Detecting Club was an enthusiastic speaker. The competition for the most popular metal ornament was won by Irene Williams and Shirley Chester. Angela Lawrence won the raffle.

The next Lunch Club meeting is on May 29 at Essington Country Kitchen, at Essington Fruit Farm. Details from Margaret Tolley on 01922 684647.

There is no official meeting on May 17. Members will be enjoying the guild's 49th birthday dinner at the Beverley Hotel in Walsall.

Guest keeps his Witts about him



From left; Gloria Crannage, chairman Jane Emery, Chris Witts and Greta Fellows

CAMEO LADIES

tainment by Maggie O'Hara. The next meeting on Monday, May 14, will feature a bring & buy for the "Coffee & Cream" charity. It is at the Mercurie Goldthorn Hotel and will also feature a talk on the history of Bournville.

For further information contact 01902 844836 or 330727.

Speaker earns her crust

HEDNESFORD A TWG

THE AGM was well-attended and was followed by a general knowledge quiz won by the Chris Eccleshall team who all received chocolates as prizes.

Lunch at the Plough & Harrow, Hednesford, was an outstanding success, while the annual Federation Dinner at the Terrace

restaurant, Brownhills was a very good evening. Entertainment was provided by Marie Lloyd.

Glynna Gayton, with 'Our Daily Bread', told members at the April 2

meeting of the history of her bakery and read out humorous entries from her grandfather's diary written during the war years.

On May 14 Margaret Key will give a talk about Sister Dora. A mystery tour with lunch takes place two days later.

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| 3 ONLY TO CLEAR Was £149 | 3ft Single Size Roll up Hypo Allergic Mattresses | NOW ONLY £18 each | 3 ONLY TO CLEAR | Full Double Size Faux Leather Bedframe Ex Display to Clear | NOW ONLY £59 | 4 ONLY TO CLEAR Was £129 | Faux Leather Tub Chairs, Brown or Cream to Clear | EACH £69 | 1 ONLY TO CLEAR | Corona Solid Pine Big 3 Door Wardrobe, Antique Mexican Pine, Ex Display | NOW ONLY £149 |
| 3 ONLY TO CLEAR Was £129 | 4ft 6in Full Double Size Orthopaedic Mattress back support | NOW ONLY £49 | 1 ONLY TO CLEAR | Full King Size Faux Leather Bedframe Ex Display to Clear | NOW ONLY £79 | 1 ONLY TO CLEAR Was £499 | 3 Seater Leather Sofa Brown Ex Display | NOW ONLY £199 | 1 ONLY TO CLEAR Was £599 | Extra Large 4ft 6in x 7ft Super Quality Complete Super Long Bed | NOW ONLY £299 |
| 9 ONLY TO CLEAR Was £199 | 3ft Single Size Solid Pine Bedframes + Fully Sprung Mattress | NOW ONLY £69 | 3 ONLY TO CLEAR | Full Double Size Bed Base with 2 Drawers Ex Display | NOW ONLY £79 | 1 ONLY TO CLEAR Was £599 | 2 Seater Recliner Sofas includes 2 Recliner Actions | NOW ONLY £249 | 1 ONLY TO CLEAR Was £599 | Electric Single Size Fully Adjustable Bed Including Mattress, Ex Display | NOW ONLY £199 |
| 1 ONLY TO CLEAR Was £389 | Fully Double Size Luxury Myres Complete Bed Ex Display | NOW ONLY £199 | 2 ONLY TO CLEAR | Full Double Size Top Quality Orthopaedic Extra Firm Mattress | NOW ONLY £89 | 1 ONLY TO CLEAR Was £1900 | Top Quality Leather Corner Unit, 2 Seater Corner, 2 Seats with Recliners | NOW ONLY £999 | 1 ONLY TO CLEAR Was £499 | Slider Wardrobe 5ft Wide x 6ft 6in High Beech with Mirror Door | NOW ONLY £199 |
| 2 ONLY TO CLEAR Was £349 | Full Double Size Faux Leather Ottoman Storage Frames | NOW ONLY £169 | 1 ONLY TO CLEAR | Slumberland Top Quality Double Size Mattress Ex Display | NOW ONLY £89 | 4 ONLY TO CLEAR Was £699 | Lift, Rise, Recliner Chairs, Brown Faux Leather, Full Recliner with Lift Out Facility | NOW ONLY £329 | 50 SQ M TO CLEAR Was £1.99 sq m | Very Hard Wearing Burbage Carpet 5 Year Wear and Stain Guarantee | NOW ONLY £3.99 sq m |
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| 1 ONLY TO CLEAR Was £499 | Huge Walk in Corner Wardrobe Huge Storage Space | NOW ONLY £179 | 1 ONLY TO CLEAR Was £949 | Superb 3 Seater Leather Sofa White Ex Display | NOW ONLY £299 | 9 ONLY TO CLEAR Was £69 | Full Double Size Brown Faux Leather Headboards | NOW ONLY £23.99 | 1 ONLY TO CLEAR Was £699 | Super Comfort 100% Big Leather Armchair | NOW ONLY £125 |
| 4 ONLY TO CLEAR Was £129 | 5 Drawer Fully Assembled Chest of Drawers | NOW ONLY £59 | 1 ONLY TO CLEAR Was £1399 | Sovereign Complete Suite 3 Seater Sofa + 2 Matching Chairs Ex Display | NOW ONLY £549 | 2 ONLY TO CLEAR Was £149 | 5ft x 3ft Light Oak Dining Table Ex Display | NOW ONLY £25 | 1 ONLY TO CLEAR Was £169 | Solid Antique Pine Table + 4 Chairs Mexican Pine | NOW ONLY £99 |
| 1 ONLY TO CLEAR Was £399 | 6ft Wide Slider Door Mirror Wardrobe Ex Display | NOW ONLY £169 | 1 ONLY TO CLEAR Was £599 | Latest Design 3 Seater Sofa Lilac Ex Display | NOW ONLY £149 | 3 SETS ONLY TO CLEAR Was £354 | Set of 4 Fabric Dining Chairs | NOW ONLY £125 | 1 ONLY TO CLEAR Was £599 | Fantastic Solid Wood Light Oak Sideboard, 5ft Long To Clear | NOW ONLY £199 |
| 2 ONLY TO CLEAR Was £159 | 15in Wide Narrow Wardrobe Small Compact Wardrobe | NOW ONLY £59 | 1 ONLY TO CLEAR Was £999 | Latest Design 3 Seater + 2 Seater Red Leather Sofas, Chrome Legs Ex Display | NOW ONLY £399 | 2 SETS ONLY TO CLEAR Was £254 | Set of 4 Faux Leather Dining Chairs | NOW ONLY £125 | 1 ONLY TO CLEAR Was £1199 | The Pantha, Recliner Sofas, 3 Seater + 2 Seater Both with Recliners | NOW ONLY £699 THE PAIR |

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Caitlan hits right notes for top prize



Caitlan Parker won top prize



The contestants in the talent competition



The audience at The Harrier pub enjoyed the singing

YOUNG performers wowed an audience of hundreds at a talent competition held at Black Country pub.

The Tipton pub was staging the final of the popular annual competition.

Hundreds of people crammed into The Harrier, in Powis Avenue, to see who would win this year's Tipton's Got Talent event on Saturday.

The final honour went to last year's runner-up, 11-year-old Summerhill Primary pupil Caitlan Parker, who impressed the judges with her singing voice.

The youngster performed two songs – Over the Rainbow and The Power of Love. And the second performance received a standing ovation.

Caitlan was presented with the top prize of £600 but has not yet decided what to spend the money on.

Her proud mother Karen McAfee said her daughter was still in shock at winning the competition.

"It was a really great night for her and the response she received from the crowd was

Duchess Lizzie comes back

DUCHESS of Dudley Lizzie Wiggins says she is now "back in harness" after taking time out from the stage to care for her husband after he was taken seriously ill.

The much-loved comedian said her spouse of three years, Richard, was now on

the road to recovery after suffering both heart failure and lung cancer. Lizzie, real name Marie Williams, said her comedy alter-ego had been a source of strength to them both by helping them to keep positive. She said: "her husband's recovery had been

"remarkable" and he was now working on the speech he would give at the wedding of his eldest son, Graham, on May 26. Lizzie has already been back on the stage. "I was only able to do those shows with the help of my fellow cast members," she said.

Brilliant

People are then asked to vote for their favourite semi-finals acts in the week leading up to the final.

Pub manager Maxine Millard said it had been a great night.

"The pub was absolutely packed. Caitlan gave a brilliant performance and when she sang the Power of Love it absolutely bought the house down."

Other performers who took to the stage were runner-up, 12-year-old Abigail Ford; Bridie Garrett, 14; Caitlin Bradnick, nine; Tina McAfee, 44; and 10-year-old Charley Bowen.

"It was a really great night for her and the response she received from the crowd was

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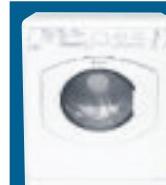
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Two days departing July 7

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Organised by Omega Holidays (ABTA V4782)

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Four days departing July 6

Sussex and Kent are home to some of the finest gardens in the country and give a wonderful insight into centuries of gardening trends. Includes entrance to Great Dixter House and gardens and Nymans. Visits to Wakehurst Place, Sissinghurst Castle Garden, Borde Hill Garden and Sheffield Park and garden.

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Kents Castles and Gardens **FROM £289***

Four days departing August 17

Kent is a place where heritage meets horticulture and this tour takes in some of the highlights, from romantic gardens to the 'loveliest castle in the world'. Includes entrances to Scotney, Hever and Leeds castles, Penshurst Palace and visits to 'The World Garden of Plants' at Lullingstone Castle and Sissinghurst Castle garden.

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Lindisfarne and the Alnwick Garden **FROM £159.95***

Three days departing September 7

A visit to the truly magical Alnwick Garden, one of the most talked about and remarkable garden transformations of recent times, and Holy Island, or Lindisfarne as it's often known, cradle of English Christianity, are just two of the highlights of this weekend. Includes entrance to Alnwick garden and visits to Durham, Bamburgh and Lindisfarne.

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

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thechronicle

Beauty spot visitors up in spite of car fees hike

Portable pressure packs



Practice nurse Louise Johnston taking the blood pressure of patient Jack Bates

Students on the catwalk

Beauty students at Kidderminster College will be showcasing their talents on the catwalk next month.

A show called The Seven Deadly Sins will take place at the college in Market Street on May 9. Models will be on the catwalk at 2pm, 4pm and 9pm. Every audience member will be included in a free prize draw. For further details, call 01562 820811.

PORTRABLE blood pressure machines are being handed out to GP surgeries across Dudley.

They will improve the way doctors diagnose whether patients have the condition and reduce the number of unnecessary appointments.

Anyone suspected of having high blood pressure will be sent home by their GP and asked to wear a monitor for 24 hours. The results

will then be analysed by the doctors before any treatment is prescribed.

At the moment it is checked in the surgery and then the patient is invited back for additional readings to be taken so an average measurement can be calculated. The ABPM machines have been provided by Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group after changes in the national guidelines.

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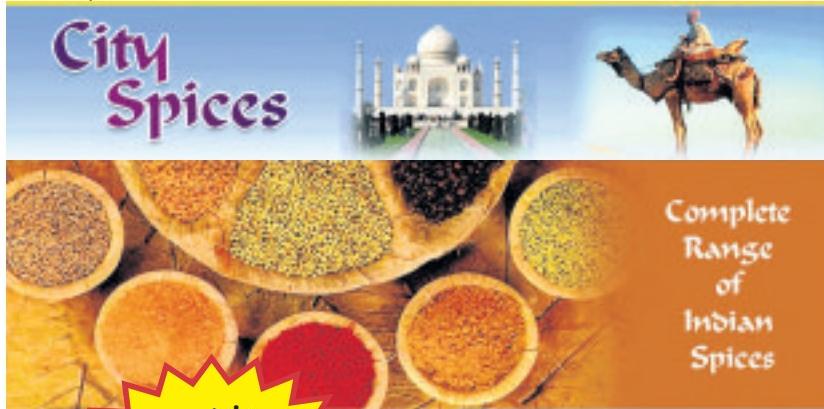


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COMPETITION

All the fun of the air at show

JUNE is always a special date in the diary of aircraft enthusiasts with all the fun of the air on offer at the Cosford Air Show

And the Chronicals have teamed up with the organisers to offer 12 readers the chance to win a pair of tickets to the show on Sunday, June 17. The 2012 Air Show brings a variety of military and civilian aircraft together to produce a spectacular five and a half hour display.

Featuring the wonders of the RAF Red Arrows and Battle of Britain Memorial Flight, a role demonstration from the RAF's Tornado including pyrotechnics, the vintage pair Meteor and Vampire and the Royal Naval Historic Flight, just to name a few, this year's show is set to be one of the most exciting yet.

Experience first hand the training the RAF provides with demonstrations from the specialisations of Aeronautical Engineering, Information and Communication Technology, Physical Training and Tri-service Photography, all part of the Defence College and Schools at RAF Cosford.

Exhibits

For those a little too young to join up, the RAF Air Cadets will be there to exhibit the many different opportunities available for teenagers with interactive displays and climbing walls. There will be fairground rides and sophisticated simulator rides and musical displays from the RAF Regiment Band and the Cosford Voluntary Band.

If you are looking for retail therapy you will be spoilt for choice with an indoor craft fair, plenty of market stalls and exhibits on the airfield and in our hangars as well as free entry to the RAF Museum.

Tickets will be £25 on the gate (only cash on the day), £20 in advance and free for children under 16 when accompanied by an adult. All major credit cards are accepted on the 24-hour ticket line: 0871 230 1083 (calls charged at 10p per min plus network charges).

Tickets are also available from the RAF Museum Cosford, Tourist Information Centres in Shrewsbury, Stoke, Stafford and Solihull and in Mid Counties Co-Operative stores. For full information go to www.cosfordairshow.co.uk or call 0844 561 1897



Show will feature a display by the breathtaking Red Arrows



Eurofighter Typhoon (above left) and Spitfires will make an appearance

HOW TO ENTER

To stand a chance of winning answer this question:
Which 2012 display will include the use of pyrotechnics?

Send answer on a postcard with your name, address and contact number to Air Show Competition, Chronicle series (editorial), 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES. Closing date: Thursday, May 10. Usual rules apply. Editor's decision is final. Entrants must be 18 or over

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CSI: NY

Channel 5, 10.20pm

In a world where gamblers can win serious money for hitting buttons fast enough, it seems some of them will do anything to stay alert. That's the basis for this week's gritty slice of Big Apple action involving a few Austin Powers-style game-related gags. 'It looks like the game he was calling ended in sudden death,' quips Mac, with all the sensitivity of a man getting drunk at a funeral. CSI analysis reveals the drug boosts concentration, so when the crime-busters discover he was a referee in a high-stakes video-gaming tournament, they suspect he was killed for confiscating the illegal substance. Crime drama, starring Gary Sinise and Sela Ward.

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Raymond Blanc's Kitchen Secrets. (R) **12.00** BBC News: Regional News; Weather. **12.15** Football Focus. Including a preview of the FA Cup final. **1.00** Live Snooker: The World Championship. The concluding session of the first semi-final. **5.30** BBC News: Regional News; Weather. **5.50** Pointless Celebrities.

6.40 My Family. Susan is accused of sexual harassment at work. (R) **7.10** The Voice UK. The five acts in Jessie J and Danny O'Donoghue's teams sing live for the first time, and viewers help decide who stays in the competition as they vote for their favourites. The results can be seen tomorrow at 7.15pm.

8.40 The National Lottery: In It to Win It. Dale Winton hosts the quiz show in which five contestants answer questions to scoop a big prize. Includes the Lotto and Thunderball draws.

9.30 Casualty. The police investigate the death of a nine-year-old boy. Guest with Georgia Henshaw.

10.20 BBC News; Weather. **10.40** Have I Got a Bit More News for You. With guest host Jeremy Clarkson. (R)

11.25 Live at the Apollo: (R) National Lottery Update. **11.55** The Football League Show. Highlights of today's League One and League Two matches.

12.55 Weatherview. **1.00** BBC News.

6.00 CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **12.00** Film: The Cardinal. (1963) An idealistic priest encounters ethical dilemmas and racial bigotry as he rises through the ranks of the Catholic Church. Otto Preminger's drama, with Tom Tryon and Carol Lynley. **2.50** Film: Land of the Pharaohs. (1955) Historical drama, starring Jack Hawkins. **4.30** Final Score. **5.10** Flog It!. **5.55** The Good Life. (R)

6.25 Dad's Army. Captain Mainwaring devises a cunning new way of foiling Hitler's invasion plans – but it results in Pike getting trapped in the minefield. (R)

7.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship. Hazel Irvine and Rishi Persad present coverage of the fourth and concluding session of the second semi-final at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield.

9.30 I Love 1977. Star Wars actress Carrie Fisher looks back at the year the film took the world by storm, along with Saturday Night Fever, Space Dust and skateboards. (R)

10.30 FILM: Papillon. (1973) A Frenchman imprisoned for life on Devil's Island for a crime he did not commit makes a desperate bid for freedom. Fact-based drama, starring Steve McQueen.

12.55 Film: Badlands. (1973) An alienated man goes on the run across Midwestern America with his teenage lover, killing anyone in their way. Terrence Malick's crime drama, with Martin Sheen and Sissy Spacek. **2.25** Close.

6.00 CITV: Mini CITV. **7.25** CITV. **8.25** Saturday Cookbook. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **11.20** The Real Housewives of New York City. **12.20** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **1.20** ITV News; Weather. **1.30** Rosemary & Thyme. (R) **3.00** Regional News; Weather. **3.05** ITV News; Weather. **3.15** Live FA Cup Final. Chelsea v Liverpool (Kick-off 5.15pm).

7.45 The Cube. An athlete and a rugby enthusiast are challenged to complete tasks within the confines of the cube in the hope of winning a £25,000 jackpot.

7.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship. Hazel Irvine and Rishi Persad present coverage of the fourth and concluding session of the second semi-final at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield.

9.30 I Love 1977. Star Wars actress Carrie Fisher looks back at the year the film took the world by storm, along with Saturday Night Fever, Space Dust and skateboards. (R)

10.15 FILM: FA Cup Highlights. Matt Smith presents highlights of the final between Chelsea and Liverpool at Wembley Stadium, where the sides battled it out to win the world's oldest domestic cup competition.

11.25 FILM: Boogeyman. (2004) A man returns to his home town to discover the monster he imagined killed his father when he was a boy is all too real. Horror, with Barry Watson.

1.00 The Store: ITV. News Headlines. **3.00** In Plain Sight. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

6.15 The Hoobs. (R) **6.40** The Hoobs. (R) **7.05** The Grid. **7.30** British Formula Ford Championship. **7.55** The Morning Line. **8.55** The TV Book Club. **9.25** T4: Koko Pop. **10.00** T4: Made in Chelsea. **11.05** T4: The Pop Powerlist. **12.10** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.45** T4: The Simpsons. (R) **1.20** Road to London. 2012: That Paralympic Show. **1.55** Channel 4 Racing. **3.55** Deal or No Deal. **4.55** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.25** Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.00 Come Dine with Me. Laura Rojas hosts the third dinner party in Aberdeen. (R)

6.30 Come Dine with Me. The final dinner party in Aberdeen. (R)

7.00 Channel 4 News.

7.15 Foxes Live: Wild in the City. More footage of Britain's urban foxes.

7.20 FILM: Mission: Impossible. (1996) A secret agent is accused of betraying his fellow spies and sets out on a mission to clear his name. Action thriller based on the 1960s TV series, with Tom Cruise and Jon Voight.

9.30 FILM: Die Hard. (1988) A New York cop battles armed men who have hijacked a skyscraper in Los Angeles, where his wife is working on Christmas Eve. Action thriller, starring Bruce Willis.

12.10 Film: The Negotiator. (1998) Thriller, starring Samuel L Jackson and Kevin Spacey. **2.35** Stand Up for the Week. (R) **3.20** Facejacker. (R) **3.45** Hit the Road Jack. **4.30** Slow Joe. (R) **4.35** Home Road Movies. (R) **4.50** Smallville. **5.30** Countdown. (R)

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Chinese Food in Minutes. (R) **10.05** Animal Rescue Squad. (R) **10.20** Meerkat Manor. (R) **10.55** Cowboy Traders. (R) **11.55** Robson's Extreme Fishing Challenge. (R) **12.55** Film: The Naked Spur. (1953) Western, starring Randolph Scott. **4.15** The Mystery of Natalie Wood.

7.30 5 News Weekend.

7.35 NCIS. Ducky is shocked to realise a cadaver he is using for medical research is the body of a murder victim. Efforts to identify the corpse lead to a criminal mastermind. (R)

8.25 NCIS. An ex-serviceman is beaten to death in his own back garden, and the agents are forced to consider the possibility his wife – a Marine and martial arts expert – is the killer. (R)

9.25 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. Grissom, Warrick try to ascertain what happened to a woman whose mummified body has been found in a closet, and Catherine investigates the discovery of a gun on a suburban lawn. (R)

10.20 CSI: NY. The referee of a video-game tournament is murdered.

11.15 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit.

12.10 SuperCasino. **4.00** Great Artists. (R) **4.50** County Secrets. (R) **5.00** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.10** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.35** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.45** Hana's Helpline. (R)

ITV2
3.25 The British Soap Awards 2012. **5.25** You've Been Framed! **6.30** Film: The Incredible Hulk. (2008) **8.45** The World's Best Diet. **9.45** Grimefighters. **10.15** Britain's Got More Talent. **11.15** Celebrity Juice: Pop Special

ITV3
3.50 Agatha Christie's Poirot. **5.55** Agatha Christie's Marple. **8.00** Doc Martin. **9.00** Foyle's War. **11.00** Film: Caddyshack (1980)

BBC THREE
11.00 Live Indian Premier League Cricket. Kolkata Knight Riders v Pune Warriors and Kings XI Punjab v Rajasthan Royals. **8.00** British Touring Car Championship Highlights. **9.30** Film: Tango & Cash (1989). **11.35** Film: National Lampoon's Animal House (1978)

BBC FOUR
7.00 Doctor Who. **8.00** Top Gear Vietnam Special. **9.15** Russell Howard's Good News Extra. **10.00** Film: Sin City (2005)

E4
3.05 Made in Chelsea. **4.10** Charlie's Angels. **5.05** The Big Bang Theory. **7.30** How I Met Your Mother. **8.30** Rules of Engagement. **9.00** Happy Endings. **9.30** Film: There's Something About Mary (1998). A lovesick man hires a seedy detective to track down his high-school sweetheart — but discovers he has many rivals for her affections. Comedy, starring Cameron Diaz. **11.55** The Big Bang Theory

FILM
3.05 Valiant (2005). **4.35** Carry On Spying (1964). **6.25** The Great Debaters (2007). **9.00** The Ghost (2010). A writer is employed to pen the memoirs of a former British prime minister, but finds his life in mortal peril. Political thriller, starring Ewan McGregor and Pierce Brosnan. **11.30** Dog Soldiers (2002)

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BBC1



PLANET EARTH LIVE

BBC1, 7.50pm

Normally when you hear phrases like 'the most ambitious live wildlife series ever undertaken' being bandied about by the BBC, you expect the name David Attenborough to crop up as well. So, it may come as a surprise to find that Planet Earth Live is actually being helmed by Richard Hammond and Julia Bradbury — with a little help from some of the expert cameramen and women from the BBC Natural History Unit. Together, they'll be spending May tracking the progress of young animals across the world. In the opener, Richard is in Kenya, tracking a pride of lions that are in the middle of a takeover.

6.00 Breakfast. 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. 10.00 The Big Questions. 11.00 Country Tracks; (R) Weather for the Week Ahead. 12.00 Sunday Politics. 1.00 Cash in the Attic. (R) 1.45 Bargain Hunt. (R) 2.30 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) 3.30 Final Score. 4.15 Escape to the Country. (R) 5.00 Points of View. 5.15 Songs of Praise. 5.50 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

6.15 Countryfile. Ellie Harrison explores the Peak District National Park and Adam Henson visits Renishaw Hall stately home in Derbyshire. Tom Heap investigates a significant decline in bee numbers.

7.15 The Voice UK Results. Jessie J and Danny O'Donoghue each lose one act.

7.50 Planet Earth Live. New series. Richard Hammond and Julia Bradbury host this three-week event following the real-time stories of young animals around the globe, including lions and elephants in Kenya.

9.00 Silent Witness. Part one of two. Harry travels to Budapest. (R) 10.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

10.25 Match of the Day. Action from today's Premier League fixtures.

11.55 The Sky at Night. The second celebration of the programme's 55th anniversary.

12.15 Weatherview. 12.20 Sign Zone: Empire. (R) 1.20 Holly City. (R) 2.20 Antiques Road Trip. (R) 3.05 Great British Railway Journeys. (R) 3.35 BBC News.

6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. 11.30 Great British Menu. (R) 12.00 Flog It! (R) 12.30 Live MotoGP. The Portuguese Grand Prix. Matt Roberts presents coverage of the third meeting of the season, staged at the Autodromo do Estoril. 2.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship. Hazel Irvine and Rishi Persad present coverage of the opening session of the final at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, featuring the first eight frames of the match. Subsequent programmes subject to change.

6.10 Barry Hearn: The People's Promoter. David Jason narrates an insight into the life of Barry Hearn, who worked his way from humble beginnings to manage some of the biggest sporting stars of the past four decades.

7.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship. Hazel Irvine and Rishi Persad present all the action from the second session of the final at Sheffield's Crucible Theatre, where a further nine frames are scheduled to take place.

11.00 FILM: Munich. (2005) After the killing of 11 Israeli coaches and athletes at the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich, Israeli prime minister Golda Meir sanctions a team of assassins to slay the Palestinian terrorists responsible.

12.15 Weatherview. 12.20 Sign Zone: Empire. (R) 1.20 Holly City. (R) 2.20 Antiques Road Trip. (R) 3.05 Great British Railway Journeys. (R) 3.35 BBC News.

1.35 BBC News. 3.35 Close.

BBC2

ITV1

Channel 4

Channel 4

Channel 5

Digital

6.00 CITV: Mini CITV. 7.25 CITV. 8.25 Dinner Date. 9.25 ITV News. 9.30 Ade in Britain. (R) 10.30 May the Best House Win. (R) 11.30 Long Lost Family. (R) 12.30 ITV News; Weather. 12.35 Britain's Got Talent. (R) 2.10 Film: Columbo: Forgotten Lady. (1975) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk. 4.10 The Hungry Sailors. (R) 5.10 You've Been Framed! (R) 5.45 Regional News; Weather.

6.00 ITV News; Weather.
6.15 All Star Family Fortunes. TV chef Rosemary Shrager and her family compete against football pundit Robbie Savage and his relatives to win up to £30,000 for charity. Vernon Kay hosts the game show.

7.15 Who Wants to Be a Millionaire? Britain's Got Talent Special. Paul Potts and Twist and Pulse try to win money for charity.

8.00 Britain's Got Talent. Ant and Dec host the first of the live semi-finals, as nine acts compete for a place in Saturday's final. Including a performance by Tulisa, with her debut solo single, Young.

10.00 PTV News at Ten; Weather.

10.15 William and Kate: The First Year. The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge's first 12 months of marriage. (R) 11.15 Premiership Rugby Union. Action from the final round of fixtures in the regular season.

12.10 The Store; 2.15 ITV News Headlines. 2.15 River Monsters. (R) 3.05 Motorsport UK. 3.55 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Morning News.

6.15 The Hoobs. (R) 6.40 The Hoobs. (R) 7.05 Freesports on 4. (R) 7.30 Channel 4 Presents – 2012; David Clarke. (R) 7.35 Freesports on 4. 8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 9.00 Frasier. (R) 9.30 Frasier. (R) 10.00 Sunday Brunch. 12.30 The Big Bang Theory. 12.30 The Big Bang Theory. 1.30 The Simpsons. (R) 2.00 Channel 4 Racing. 4.00 The Simpsons. (R) 4.35 Film: Big. (1988) Comedy, starring Tom Hanks.

6.30 Channel 4 News.
7.00 Foxes Live: Wild in the City. More footage of Britain's urban foxes, with updates from fox dens around the country and reports on injured animals that have been released to the wild following medical treatment.

7.05 FILM: Men in Black. (1997) A cop joins a secret force policing aliens on Earth, and teams up with a veteran partner to track down a giant insect. Sci-fi comedy, with Will Smith.

9.00 Homeland. Brody makes his final preparations to die for his country — and despite being sacked by the CIA, Carrie cannot keep away when she realises what is going on. Last in the series.

10.45 FILM: The X Files. (1998) Sci-fi thriller, starring David Duchovny.

12.10 Film: The Fog. (2005) Premiere. Horror remake, starring Tony Welling. 2.05 SuperCasino.

4.00 The FBI Files. 4.50 County Secrets. (R) 5.00 Hana's Helpline. (R) 5.10 The Milkshake! Show. (R) 5.35 Thomas & Friends. (R)

6.00 Milkshake! Peppa Pig. 6.05 Roary the Racing Car. (R) 6.15 Fifi and the Flowertots. (R) 6.25 City of Friends. (R) 6.40 Harry and His Bucket Full of Dinosaurs. (R) 6.55 Castle Farm. (R) 6.55 Abby's Flying Fairy School. 7.05 Roarbar and Custard Too. (R) 7.15 Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) 7.25 Family! (R) 7.35 Noddy in Toyland. (R) 7.50 Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) 7.55 Little Princess. (R) 8.05 The Adventures of Botts Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) 8.20 Angelina Ballerina. (R) 8.35 Rupert Bear. (R) 8.50 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) 9.05 The Mr Men Show. (R) 9.25 Roary the Racing Car. (R) 9.35 The Milkshake! Show. (R) 10.00 Inside Hollywood. 10.05 Grey's Anatomy. (R) 11.00 Film: Scooby-Doo. (2002) Live-action comedy-adventure, starring Sarah Michelle Gellar. 12.40 Film: My Favorite Martian. (1999) Sci-fi comedy, starring Christopher Lloyd. 2.25 Film: Scooby-Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed. (2004) Comedy, with Sarah Michelle Gellar. 4.10 Film: Mr. Deeds. (2002) Comedy remake, starring Adam Sandler.

6.00 Once Upon a Time.
7.00 FILM: Return of the Magnificent Seven. (1966) Western sequel, starring Yul Brynner.

8.55 5 News Weekend.
9.00 World's Scariest Flights. (R)

10.00 FILM: Miss Congeniality. (2000) Comedy, starring Sandra Bullock.

12.10 Film: The Fog. (2005) Premiere. Horror remake, starring Tony Welling. 2.05 SuperCasino.

4.00 The FBI Files. 4.50 County Secrets. (R) 5.00 Hana's Helpline. (R) 5.10 The Milkshake! Show. (R) 5.35 Thomas & Friends. (R)

5.45 Hana's Helpline. (R)

ITV2
2.45 Film: A Cinderella Story (2004). 4.45 Britain's Got Talent. 6.15 Britain's Got More Talent. 7.15 Totally Bonkers. Guinness World Records 7.45 Nicki Minaj: The Hot Desk. 8.00 Film: Wild Wild West (1999). 10.00 Britain's Got More Talent 11.00 Olly: Life on Mars

ITV3
2.30 Goodnight Mister Tom. 4.35 Wycliffe. 5.45 Agatha Christie's Poirot. 9.00 Housewife, 49. Bafta-winning drama, starring Victoria Wood. 11.00 Cracker

ITV4
11.00 Live Indian Premier League Cricket. Mumbai Indians v Chennai Super Kings and Royal Challengers Bangalore v Deccan Chargers. 8.00 Premiership Rugby Union. 9.00 Film: The Keeper (2009) Action thriller, starring Steven Seagal. 11.00 Film: The Hunter (1980)

BBC THREE
7.00 Wallace & Gromit's Cracking Contraptions. 7.15 Wallace & Gromit: A Grand Day Out. 7.40 Film: Chicken Run (2000). 9.00 Don't Tell the Bride USA. 9.50 Don't Tell the Bride: Greatest Moments. 10.00 Family Guy. 10.45 American Dad! 11.30 Russell Howard's Good News

BBC FOUR
7.00 Royal Institution Christmas Lectures 2010. 8.00 Shock and Awe: The Story of Electricity. 9.00 A Civil Arrangement. Comedy, starring Alison Steadman. 9.30 The Many Faces of Alison Steadman. 10.30 Nuts in May. 11.55 Royal Institution Christmas Lectures 2010

E4
3.05 Ugly Betty. 4.05 Glee. 5.00 90210. 6.00 The Big Bang Theory. 6.55 Film: Nine Months (1995). 9.00 Desperate Housewives. 11.00 2 Broke Girls. 11.30 Made in Chelsea

FILM4
3.15 The Time Machine (1960). 5.20 The Golden Child (1986). 7.05 The Seeker: The Dark Is Rising (2007). 9.00 GI Joe: The Rise of Cobra (2009). 11.15 Wedding Crashers (2005)

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Wednesday 9th

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Thursday 10th

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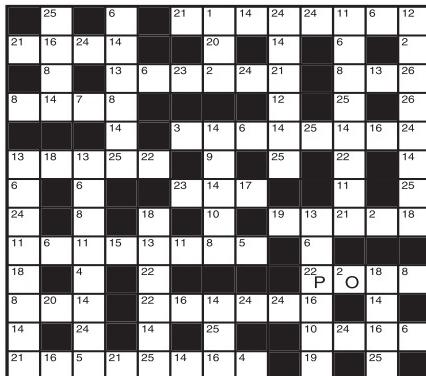
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No.167

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|---|---|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | G | V | 2 | F | H | S | K | D | Z | M | A | U | L | Y |
| 14 | W | E | 15 | C | R | I | Q | P | O | T | X | J | B | N |

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Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

- He bases his findings on an investigation of the headquarters! (12)
- A thousand getting the lady upset in a crazy way (5)
- Would he use a pitch-fork in his work? (5)
- Tangled mass of hair lacking lustre, we hear (3)
- Men once at the top of the building trade? (9)
- The sort of task that confronts the mountaineers (6)
- Some of the nuts and raisins for the girl (6)
- A second hay crop at the farm, maybe (9)
- Depute in part of the play (3)
- On many occasions two and five are used as fractions thus! (5)
- No hint turns up as an aid to climbers (5)
- Not conforming to the Rationalist doctrine? (12)

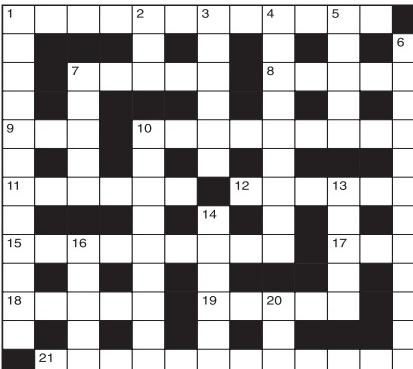
Quick Clues:

Across

- Damning (12)
- Sugary (5)
- Incite (3,2)
- Be in debt (3)
- Keep trying (9)
- Recompenses (6)
- Happy (6)
- With utmost speed (9)
- Row (3)
- Projecting roof-edge (5)
- Split (5)
- Safeguard (12)

Down

- Transport for a small charge (12)
- Spaniard returns to fall asleep (9)
- Bet on the fellow not being a priest (6)
- What those who are unwelcome do on their own admission? (4-5)
- Those who are 21 won't show this feeling (5)
- Member of the embassy staff who makes news? (5,7)
- This provides exact agreement for the contest (5)
- Permissible range of variation shown by patient people (9)
- Ended all square, as illustrated (5)
- A temporary settlement by America provides space for students (6)
- The big man has it in a shade of brown (5)
- Can come before foll (3)



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:
 CRYPTIC ACROSS: 4 Open; 8 Torpid; 9 Masters; 10 Little; 11 In fact; 12 Careless; 13 Encores; 20 Stake; 21 Secret; 22 Sparrow; 23 Divine; 24 Varsity; Down: 1 Italics; 2 Orators; 3 Willow; 5 Bearings; 6 Let off; 7 Spruce; 13 Overcoat; 14 Entrain; 15 Settles; 16 Utopia; 17 Skirts; 19 Cleric. QUICK - Across: 4 Formula; 8 Marvel; 9 Statute; 10 Abduct; 11 Invent; 12 Lowering; 18 Optional; 20 Travel; 21 Becalmed; 22 Satiate; 23 Bright; 24 Dessert. Down: 1 Amiable; 2 Bradawl; 3 Fencer; 5 Outright; 6 Motive; 7 Latent; 13 Idolater; 14 Enlarge; 15 Climate; 16 Ornate; 17 Avoids; 19 Ideals.

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Circlegram

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be arranged to form words on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?

LAST WEEK'S
SOLUTION:
The letter
represented by
the question
mark is O. Harriett,
Craddock, Grigson, all
celebrity chefs.



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Sudoku

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S
SOLUTIONS ->

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|--|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 5 | | | | 4 | 7 | | |
| | | | | | 1 | 3 | 2 | |
| 8 | 9 | | | | | 1 | 7 | 2 |
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| 4 | 3 | | | | | | 8 | 1 |
| | | | | | 7 | 9 | 1 | 6 |
| 6 | 8 | 5 | | | | | 9 | 3 |
| | | | | | 2 | 6 | | |

LAST WEEK'S
SOLUTIONS ->

| | | | | | | | | |
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| 1 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 5 |
| 2 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 9 | 7 | 6 | 1 |
| 3 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 8 |
| 4 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 7 | 9 |
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| 6 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 9 | 1 | 2 |
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LAST WEEK'S
SOLUTIONS ->

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LAST WEEK'S
SOLUTIONS ->

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| 5 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 4 | 5 |
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LAST WEEK'S
SOLUTIONS ->

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LAST WEEK'S
SOLUTIONS ->

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LAST WEEK'S
SOLUTIONS ->

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LAST WEEK'S
SOLUTIONS ->

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LAST WEEK'S
SOLUTIONS ->

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LAST WEEK'S
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Home of Property

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The top property guide for Dudley, Stourbridge, Halesowen and Kidderminster



The spacious home is situated in Oriel Close, Milking Bank, and has scope for extension

A larger than average corner plot for property

A SPACIOUS detached four bedroom family home with integral garage on a larger than average corner plot in Dudley is on the market based on offers in the region of £249,995.

The house in Oriel Close, Milking Bank, is described as having scope for future extension to the side, subject to regulations.

On the ground floor the cloakroom has a hand basin and WC, while the

lounge – 17ft by 11ft 6in – has a Bath stone overmantel and hearth with living flame gas fire and door to the dining room, 10ft 3in by 9ft 4in.

The kitchen, 12ft 1in by 10ft 4in, has roll edge work surfaces and breakfast bar, stainless steel single drainer sink, extensive range of wall and base units, four-ring gas hob with filter above and electric oven and plumbing for washing machine.

A utility room, 9ft 9in by 5ft 3in, has a work surface, stainless steel bowl with mixer tap, wall and base units and plumbing for washing machine.

On the first floor bedroom one has a white contemporary en-suite with shower cubicle, hand basin and WC and there are three further bedrooms and a bathroom with white suite of hand basin, WC, bidet and bath with shower fitment and screen.

There is an integral garage with door to the utility room, with a good size rear garden with slabbed patio, lawn and well-stocked borders with established shrubs and plants.

Call Taylors on 01902 880888 for further details or if you want to arrange a viewing.



The kitchen has gas hob, electric oven and plumbing for washing machine



A Bath stone overmantel and hearth with gas fire features in the lounge

Lettings hickshadley.com 0121 585 6688

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HALESOWEN, CHERRY ORCHARD CRESCENT

Located close to central Halesowen, and close to shops and transport links is this large unfurnished semi detached house, comprising of: Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Downstairs WC, Four Bedrooms, Large Bathroom with Separate Shower, Garage and Driveway Parking, Gardens, Lovely views from bed 2

£775 PCM



HALESOWEN, SUMMERFIELDS AVENUE

Ideally located in Halesowen, close to popular school, motorway access and commutable to Birmingham, is this lovely semi-detached house, briefly comprising of: Three Large Bedrooms, Large Reception Room, Modern Fitted Kitchen with White Goods, Family Bathroom with Shower, Front and Rear Gardens, Driveway Parking and Garage with Shower, Allocated Parking Space, Small Rear Garden

£750 PCM



OLDBURY, MEHDI ROAD

Situated in a quiet cul-de-sac, is this modern unfurnished three storey townhouse, comprising of: Three Bedrooms, Master Bedroom with En-Suite, Large Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Downstairs WC, House Bathroom with Shower, Allocated Parking Space, Small Rear Garden

£595 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, PERRY PARK ROAD

A well presented three bedroom semi detached house comprising of: Lounge/Dining Area, Fitted Kitchen, Guest WC/utility Area, Three Double Bedrooms, Recessed Kitchens, Central Heating, Part Double Glazing, Rear Garden with Decking Area, Driveway for Two Cars, Close to Old Hill Railway Station. Available Early May. Viewing Recommended.

£575 PCM



ROWLEY REGIS, FARM ROAD

Being refurbished and well presented is this a large and spacious semi-detached home, comprising of: Two Double Bedrooms and One Single Bedroom, Two Spacious Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Downstairs WC, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Front and Rear Gardens, On Road Parking. Unfurnished. A must See Property.

£550 PCM



HALESOWEN, CHATSWORTH ROAD

Located on this desirable estate in Halesowen, is this unfurnished semi detached house briefly comprising: Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, En-Suite to Master Bedroom, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Parking Space for Two Cars, Front and Rear Gardens. Great Views from Rear

£550 PCM



HALESOWEN, BANNERS STREET

A mid terrace property which has been refurbished, comprises of: Two Double Bedrooms, Brand New Fitted Kitchen, Two Reception Rooms, Large Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Large Garden with Decking Area, On Road Parking. Available Immediately.

£550 PCM



BRIERLEY HILL, GOLDEN CROSS WAY

Set within a quiet cul-de-sac, is this part furnished mid terraced house, close to local amenities and Merry Hill, comprising of: Two Double Bedrooms with Bed Bases, Spacious Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Downstairs WC, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Large Garden with Shower, 2 Parking Spaces, Low Maintenance Rear Garden

£525 PCM



HALESOWEN, TENTERFIELDS

An exceptional opportunity to rent this room in a shared house, with no bills to pay at all, cleaning done for you, towels and tea and coffee supplied for each room. Also the use of free WiFi, use of the lounge, kitchen, office room. All rooms have their own ensuite facilities. Well worth a viewing, and ideal for a single person.

£500 PCM



HALESOWEN, FAIRMILE ROAD

A first floor furnished to suit flat, in a popular area, briefly comprising of: Warm Air Heating, Large Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom with Shower, Well Kept Communal Gardens, Parking Space, Inspection Recommended

£495 PCM



HALESOWEN, CAVALIER DRIVE

This beautifully presented and well looked after first floor apartment is centrally located to Halesowen, within easy reach of the town centre and local bus station, comprising of: Two Bedrooms, Large Lounge with Access to Your Own Balcony, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom with Shower, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Allocated Parking Space for One Car. A Must See Property

£495 PCM



NETHERTON, NORWICH ROAD

Located in a quiet road, is this unfurnished semi detached house, briefly comprising of: Two Good Sized Bedrooms, Cosy Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Gas central heating, Double Glazing, Bathroom with Shower, Garage and Gated Driveway Parking, Front and Rear Gardens

£495 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, PEAR TREE LANE

This lovely unfurnished modern first floor apartment, located in a popular area, and close to local train station and buses, comprises of: Gas Central Heating, Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Parking Space

£475 PCM



NETHERTON, ROUND STREET

Situated on a very popular road, and a short walk from local shops and bus links, is this unfurnished semi detached house, comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Cosy Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Low Maintenance Rear Gardens, Driveway Parking

£475 PCM



TIPTON, FERGUSON DRIVE

A lovely modern first floor apartment, briefly comprising of: Two Bedrooms, Spacious Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Double Glazing, Bathroom with Shower, Electric Storage Heating, Double Glazing, Two Allocated Parking Spaces, Internal Viewing Recommended.

£450 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, ELBOW STREET

Situated in a quiet location, within walking distance to Old Hill town and local train station is this unfurnished first floor flat, comprising of: Electric Storage Heating, Large Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, One Double Bedroom, Bathroom with Shower, Communal Gardens, Allocated Parking.

£450 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, ARCHER GARDENS

An unfurnished ground floor maisonette, located close to shops and amenities, briefly comprising of: Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Parking Space

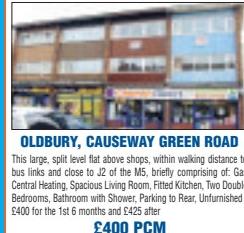
£425 PCM



BRIERLEY HILL, FOXDALE DRIVE

Situated in a quiet location and within walking distance to Brierley Hill town centre and a short drive or bus to Merry Hill Shopping Centre is this ground floor apartment, comprising of: One Double Bedroom and One Single, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom with Shower, Spacious Lounge, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, One Allocated Parking Space

£425 PCM



OLDBURY, CAUSEWAY GREEN ROAD

This large, split level flat above shops, within walking distance to bus links and close to J2 of the M5, briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Spacious Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Parking to Rear, Unfurnished £400 for the 1st 6 months and £425 after

£400 PCM



HALESOWEN, MALT MILL LANE

A two Bedroom Semi-Detached Property Close to Blackheath Town Centre. Comprising of: Two Double Bedrooms, One Study/Storage Room, Living Room, Fitted Kitchen with Cooker, Downstairs WC, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Driveway Parking. Available Immediately.

£395 PCM



BRIERLEY HILL, CHURCH HILL

Located within walking distance to Brierley Hill and Merry Hill, is this modernised second floor apartment, briefly comprising of: Fitted Kitchen, One Double Bedroom, Bathroom with Shower, Spacious Lounge

£330 PCM

The Property Shop



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Halesowen Office : 0121 585 5081

Netherton Office : 01384 456 022

Lettings Office : 01384 484 222

**NEW****3 Bed****Park Avenue,
ROWLEY REGIS**

This lovely three bedroom semi-detached home has a really spacious feel due to the open plan ground floor accommodation which comprises of a modern fitted kitchen, dining area and lounge with beautiful fireplace. Just off the dining room is the conservatory which overlooks the well tended rear garden. On the first floor are three bedrooms and the bathroom. The property has a good sized driveway to the front providing parking for a number of vehicles. A really great house that must be viewed to be fully appreciated. The property is available with no upward chain.

HALESOWEN Office

Offers Around

£134,950

**NEW****4 Bed****Fatherless Barn Crescent,
HALESOWEN**

A well presented four bedroom property that has been successfully extended to create a lovely family home. Accommodation briefly comprises of an entrance hall, lounge with dining area, conservatory, breakfast room, modern fitted kitchen, ground floor bedroom with en-suite bathroom and on the first floor are a three further double bedrooms and the house bathroom. An internal inspection is essential to fully appreciate this great property.

HALESOWEN Office

Offers Around

£159,950

**NEW****3 Bed****Meres Road,
HALESOWEN**

Look no further! This is the house for you! It is a beautifully presented modern three bedroom home with a large lounge and a conservatory. There is an abundance of parking with a driveway that extends across the entire of the property and the neighbours property and you don't even have to share it with them as they have their own drive to the side of their property. A really great property that simply must be viewed to be fully appreciated.

HALESOWEN Office

Offers Around

£134,950

**Beech Avenue,
HALESOWEN**

A viewing is recommended to this three bedroom mid terraced family home in this popular residential location. With gas central heating and some double glazing the property has good sized rooms with a lounge and dining room, fitted kitchen. On the first floor there are three bedrooms and a bathroom. Externally there is a rear garden with paved patio area with fenced boundary. To the front there is a driveway providing parking for a number of vehicles. No DSS | No Pets | No Smokers. Available Start of May 2012

LETTINGS Office

£550 PCM

**3 Bed****Lowfield Close,
HALESOWEN**

Need a short term let? Then look no further. This fabulously redecorated three bedroom semi detached property is available for a 6 month tenancy. With recently fitted gas central heating and accommodation comprising: Entrance porch, spacious lounge with living flame gas fire, kitchen diner, mature rear garden, three well proportioned bedrooms and gorgeous bathroom with separate bath and shower cubicle. Further benefiting from driveway parking this property is an ideal opportunity for anyone requiring a short term letting agreement. No DSS | No smoking | No pets | No children 1650PCM

LETTINGS Office

£650 PCM

**NEW****2 Bed****Powke Lane,
ROWLEY REGIS**

This modern two bedroom semi detached home has the added benefits of allocated off road parking to the rear, which leads to the garage and pedestrian access to the rear of the property from the front garden via a handy gated area. The property has well presented accommodation comprising of: Entrance hall, guest w.c., fitted kitchen, lounge with dining area, two good sized bedrooms with the master bedroom having an en-suite toilet. There is a lovely landscaped garden to the rear. Viewing is highly recommended.

HALESOWEN Office

Offers Around

£129,950

**NEW****2 Bed****Highfield Road,
ROWLEY REGIS**

This surprisingly spacious two bedroom house is bigger than quite a few three bedroom homes! The clean and tidy accommodation comprises of: entrance hall, lounge, sitting room (potential for dining room) fitted kitchen, two bedrooms and a bathroom on the first floor. The property has a pleasant rear garden and a large store room built underneath the kitchen extension, there are some fantastic views from the rear of the property.

HALESOWEN Office

Offers Around

£119,950

**3 Bed****Pennant Road,
ROWLEY REGIS**

A recently refurbished three bedroom mid terrace property with a beautiful fitted kitchen with dining area and a spacious lounge. On the first floor are three good sized bedrooms and the refitted bathroom. This property would make a great buy for a first time buyer or a buy to let investor. Available with no upward chain.

HALESOWEN Office

Offers Around

£99,750

**3 Bed****Dudley Road,
ROWLEY REGIS**

This three bedroom semi detached home is priced to sell so please don't delay book your viewing today! This property was, up until the 6th March 2012, on the market with another local agent with an asking price of Offers In Excess of £145,000 - so this really is a great opportunity. The accommodation comprises of an entrance hall, fitted kitchen with dining area, lounge, three bedrooms and family bathroom. The property also has off road parking to the front. Available with No Upward Chain

HALESOWEN Office

Offers Around

£110,000

**1 Bed****Long Lane,
HALESOWEN**

A well maintained one bedroom first floor flat benefitting from gas central heating, UPVC double glazing and secure off road parking. The flat briefly comprises of entrance hallway, living room, kitchen, shower room and bedroom. DSS considered| No Pets| Smoking outside only. Available 1st May 2012.

LETTINGS Office

£375 PCM

**3 Bed****7 Heale Close,
HALESOWEN**

This three bedroom detached family home must be viewed to be appreciated. With accommodation to include: Spacious Lounge Diner, Kitchen, Three bedrooms and bathroom. To the rear is a generous garden. Benefiting from off road parking, double glazing and gas central heating you won't want to miss out on this fabulous home. No DSS | No Smoking | No Pets

LETTINGS Office

£625 PCM

MOTORING NEWS AND REVIEWS

CHRONICLE

MOTORING

powered by



Your essential guide to the world of motoring compiled by Motoring Editor Sharon Walters

New city Skoda is the perfect car for families

"This is the biggest-growing segment in Europe," notes Jürgen Stackmann enthusiastically over dinner. He should know, being on the board of directors in charge of



At 3.5m in length, the Citigo is ideal for negotiating narrow city streets

By Matt Joy

sales and marketing at Skoda, the Volkswagen-owned Czech brand.

Stackmann is referring to this new A0 grouping of entry-level small cars that his firm's new Citigo car will fit into.

It marks the carmaker's entry into this tiny city commuter car category, from where it hopes to tap a broader market.

According to Skoda research, we are returning to life in the urban jungle. And to survive, which generally means getting from A to B, requires a car like the Citigo. The name, as you've probably noted, leaves little ambiguity

about the positioning of this car. At the pinnacle of this untapped market, Stackmann earnestly tells me, is the wife of a young urban family – someone like mine, he notes.

They have a couple of kids and the family may have a couple of cars but the wife prefers a run-around like the Citigo that is small, safe and practical for the school and shopping run. Skoda prides itself on safety and this car – alongside its siblings the VW Up! and Seat Mii – has a four-star Euro NCAP safety rating.

Earlier that morning we were flown to Portugal's capital, Lisbon, to test the Citigo. We drove out of the city, up the mountains, zig-zagged through

slinky country lanes, and returned to the city.

Despite its small stature and equally small engine, the Citigo can handle itself. So it is more than just a city car – the Citigo will be comfortable in hilly suburbs too.

Overcrowded
It is, admittedly, particularly happy in its natural habitat, the dense overcrowded city centre – in this case, cobbled narrow roads, where the Citigo's length of 3.5m is a life saver. This being friendly Skoda, the lack of brand aggression also means other road users are

happy to let us merge lanes – at times almost motioning us to overtake!

I'm impressed by the thoughtful design features in the cabin, – unashamedly aimed at a female buyer – including a brilliant mobile phone holder above the gear



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Theodore Porter, GEM's oldest member, was 28 when he joined in 1942



1940s and 1950s memorabilia from GEM's archive collection

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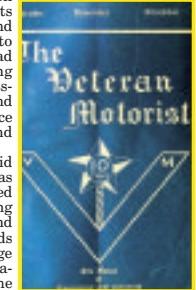
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First edition

80 years of safety is a Gem of driving

ROAD safety organisation and breakdown cover provider GEM Motoring Assist is celebrating its 80th anniversary and 80 years of road safety campaigning.

Formed in 1932 to champion road safety, GEM now supports conferences, award schemes and research. GEM continues to back national and local road safety campaigns, donating equipment for training, assessment and vision screening, and producing free motoring advice and road safety leaflets and videos.

GEM chief executive David Williams said: "The legend has it that our founder was involved in a 'near miss' with a young man in a sports car in 1932 and in response, a group of friends formed a club to encourage Care, Courtesy and Concentration on the roads, to reduce the growing accident toll ... and so the Company of Veteran Motorists was born."

"There have been many motoring changes in our 80 years and we have played our part. From drink-driving and motorway speed limits to lighter evenings and driving with pets, we have moved with the times, but our aim is still the same: to keep motorists as safe as possible on the road."

To mark the occasion, GEM has found vintage cars, one from each of the last eight decades and will take them for a drive around the Newhouse Estate in Wiltshire. An article about the drive will appear in the next issue of GEM's magazine Good Motoring. The piece will look at road safety facts and figures from the past 80 years.

"It is really interesting to see in which decade new laws were introduced to make the roads safer for drivers and reduce accident rates," Mr Williams said. "For example, in 1958 Volvo was the first to introduce the seatbelt, but it wasn't until 1983 that it became compulsory to wear one in the UK when in the front seat; something which is second nature to us these days."

Road safety history:

1932 The Company of Veteran Motorists is founded, a year after the publication of the first Highway Code.

1934 A 30mph limit is imposed in built-up areas. Zebra crossings are introduced. New drivers have to pass a test.

1935 There are 35 million vehicles on the world's roads.

1939 Petrol rationing is introduced, allowing each motorist about 200 miles of motoring per month.

1942 Theodore Porter from Clevedon in Somerset, joins the Company of Veteran Motorists. Seventy years later, at 98, he is GEM's longest-serving member.

1950 The British government ends petrol rationing.

1958 Volvo introduces the seatbelt.

1959 The M1 'London to Birmingham' motorway, the UK's first is opened.

1961 The 'MOT' is introduced for cars over 10 years old.

1965 The Government introduces a 70mph maximum speed as a 'four month experiment'.

1967 The breathalyser is introduced. All cars sold in Britain must now be fitted with front seatbelts.

1973 Motorists queue for petrol and speeds are restricted to 50mph to conserve national stocks and consumption.

1978 The Mercedes Benz S-class becomes the first production car with ABS.

1981 The Mercedes Benz S-class gets a driver airbag.

1983 Front seatbelt use becomes compulsory in the UK.

1986 The first speed camera was introduced, in Texas.

1987 All new cars sold in the UK must now be fitted with rear seatbelts.

1994 European crash test standards, later to become EuroNCAP begin.

2002 Finnish sausage heir Jussi Salonenja was caught driving at 50mph in a 25 zone. He gets a salary-based fine of more than £120,000.

2003 It becomes illegal to use a hand-held mobile phone while driving.

2010 A Swedish driver is detected at 180mph by a camera in Switzerland, leading to a fine of £538,000.



A 1956 Austin Healey road test



A five-metre cable and charging set tucks away underneath the Prius's boot floor

Toyota putting an end to the distance anxiety

PRIUS Plug-in, which reaches showrooms in July, offers all the familiar virtues of Prius and quite a few more.

It is powered by a full hybrid powertrain, but thanks to new, rechargeable lithium-ion battery technology, it can cover longer distances and reach higher speeds on electric power alone.

Seamlessly

Once the charge in the battery is used, the car switches seamlessly to its hybrid system, so there's no need for anxiety about distances.

As a result, Prius Plug-in achieves a new low benchmark in its class for official CO2 emissions, 49 g/km.

Recharging the battery is simple and speedy, using a power point linked to a

standard supply, or a street charging point. Prius Plug-in comes with a charging set, including 5m of cabling, stored beneath the boot floor.

Prius Plug-in has LED daytime running lights and headlights; Toyota Touch and Go Plus with touchscreen controls, satellite navigation, voice recognition, rear-view camera and advanced Bluetooth, a DAB digital tuner, eight-speaker JBL sound system, rain-sensing wipers and cruise control.

Leather

Heated front seats, 15-inch alloy wheels with wheel caps and leather steering wheel trim are also included.

Black leather upholstery (£1,500) and rear privacy glass (£270) are available as options, together with a Protection Pack (rear parking sensors and boot liner) and a Style Pack (exterior chrome trim elements), both at £360.

Four exterior colours make up the palette for Prius Plug-in, led by Sky Blue (metallic), a new shade exclusive to the model. Tyrol Silver and Novus Grey metallics and White Pearl Pearlescent are also available.

In the cabin the upholstery is Minowa black fabric with optional Setana black leather.

The on-the-road price for Prius Plug-in is £32,895, but this falls to £27,895 with the benefit of the £5,000 Government grant available on new vehicle purchases, provided through the Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV).

The critically acclaimed Mini family is expanding again.

Hot on the wheels of the Coupé comes the launch of the sixth unique model in the line-up, the eagerly anticipated and all-new Mini Roadster.

Mini continues to rewrite the rule-book: this is the first open-topped two-seater in the company's history. The cutting-edge design is typically Mini—an authentic reinterpretation of a classic motoring concept. This latest model offers the fun of driving a taut-handling roadster, with all the character of MINI. And being built at Plant Oxford means it can justifiably claim to be a spiritual successor to the traditional British roadsters of old.

The semi-automatic operation of the tailored soft-top roof means rapid opening and closing, and it doesn't affect the Mini Roadster's practicality in any way. This is a versatile two-seater with a stowage area behind the driver and passenger seats, a generous 240-litre luggage area, and through-loading system.

The Mini Roadster is the first premium model of its kind in the small car segment, offering buyers a unique package that will bring the joy of Mini ownership to a passionate and demanding group of new customers.

The Mini Roadster's generous list of standard equipment includes speed-sensitive steering assistance, electrically adjustable and heated exterior mirrors, rear Park Distance Control, air conditioning and an audio system with MP3-compatible CD player, DAB radio and AUX IN connection. Safety features include front and head-thorax airbags, an extremely rigid windscreen frame and polished stainless steel roll-over bars for outstanding occupant protection.

MINI's extension list of desirable optional extras means the comfort and individuality of the Roadster can be enhanced in an almost unlimited number of ways. These include a wide range of entertainment, communication and navigation systems, plus Mini Connected with web radio, Google services, RSS news feeds and in-car access to Facebook and Twitter.

Mini makes history with new open-top



The new Roadster is the company's first two-seater convertible

Alloy wheels of 15, 16 or 17-inch diameter are standard, depending on the model.

As with the recently launched Mini Coupé, all variants of the Mini Roadster carry the Cooper name in their model titles. Full details of standard and optional equipment on each will be released nearer the launch. A wide range of accessories and personalisation



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In these days of rising energy bills you may consider renewable technologies to save you money but before you invest in any renewable technologies you should always make sure your home is thoroughly insulated in order to make the maximum savings. Visit the [find a builder service from the Federation of Master Builders \(FMB\), the largest trade association in the UK construction industry, <http://www.fmb.org.uk/fab/>](http://www.fmb.org.uk/fab/) to find a local builder to advise you on what renewable technologies would suit your home.

Don't be afraid to turn away cold callers trying to sell home repairs. If you have to engage in conversation say you need to compare prices or discuss it with your partner, son, daughter or friend.

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SPORT

Swimmers just pipped in race for top berth

HALESOWEN Swimming Club went desperately close to victory in the A final of the Worcester Winter League at Droitwich.

A first and a second place in the closing group of relays left them just three points shy of Stourbridge.

Halesowen finished level with Redditch, but took second place by virtue of having most race wins. The result left Halesowen second overall.

Their B team also made the final, finishing fifth.

Double event winners were Chloe Finch in the butterfly and freestyle and Jacob Darby in the butterfly and breaststroke.

Individual event winners were Jack Simpson and Chloe Robbins in the freestyle, Mark Laing and Lauren Hill in the butterfly and Ruby Fell in the breaststroke.

Standard

The 15-year-old relay team of Imogen Davies, Lilian Parsons, Max Rollason, Joe Coxon and Isobel Breslin won both the medley and freestyle events while Becky Spoor, Hannah Cutthbert, Brian Steatham, Richard Phillips and Zach Collins won the open freestyle relay.

Result: Stourbridge A 184 points, Halesowen A 181, Redditch 181, Worcester A 156, Halesowen B 98.

Halesowen took victory in round one of the Mercian Summer League at Solihull.

With regional standard swimmers not allowed to compete, the league is a good test of strength in depth.

Individual winners were Nic Green, Talia Mitchell, Emma Parsons, George Davies, Rhys Richards and Ryan Spoor in the breaststroke, Emma Bird, Sam Bradley-Wood and Ryan Davies in the backstroke and Georgia Bird, Lauren Hill and Jack Simpson in the freestyle.

Result: Halesowen 245, Bilston 206, Lichfield 198, Tamworth 148, Wombourne 143, Walsall 101.

Junior swimmers got off to a good start in round one of the Nuneaton Junior League, finishing second in home water.

Double winners were Imogen Vaughan-Hawkins in the freestyle and backstroke and Ben Meakin in the freestyle and butterfly.

Individual winners were Katy Morrice in the butterfly, Mark Laing in the freestyle and Jack Simpson in the backstroke.

Result: Halesowen 262, Halesowen 222, City of Coventry A 211, Worcester A 165, Braunstone 129 and Haden Hill 65.



Nicolas Hamilton in the spray at a murky Thruxton

Total not in rain control

Clio Cup

WEDNESBURY team Total Control Racing endured a difficult sixth round in the AirAsia Renault UK Clio Cup.

Heavy rain and standing water made Sunday's round at Thruxton one of the toughest and most challenging races in championship memory.

Nicolas Hamilton, who started the race from a career-best sixth on the grid after a sensational run in rain-affected qualifying on Saturday, had high hopes of a strong finish, but the 20-year-old was unable to capitalise.

Drivers set off behind the safety car so racing proper did not get under way

until lap four. As the cars streamed across the start line and into the first corner, Hamilton spun.

Down in 18th place, the second-year racer pushed on to make up lost ground as the rain persisted and gained two places before a mid-race safety car period was required following a crash into the barriers for TCR team-mate Rob Smith. Hamilton, brother of Formula One star Lewis Hamilton, finished 18th to salvage a few points.

Smith, tackling wet conditions for

the first time at the wheel of a Clio, started 19th but moved up three spots.

He was running quite worn rear tyres due to regulations over the number of wet-weather tyres permitted when he spun and crashed heavily.

Team boss Lee Brookes said: "Sunday was a big learning curve for both drivers, it was torrential and there was a lot of standing water out there."

"For Rob, having never driven in the wet before, the conditions were not what you'd want and especially at a track as fast as Thruxton."

Albion 0 Villa 0

ALBION couldn't quite deliver the derby victory for which their fans had hoped. Yet the positive vibe around the stadium spoke volumes for the changing expectations among Albion fans, writes **Steve Madeley**.

The philosophical way they accepted a huge moment of injustice and an anti-climactic result told the story of a campaign in which their primary mission was completed weeks ago.

The Hawthorns faithful would have lapped up a win to complete a first double over their claret and blue neighbours in almost four decades.

But even in the disappointment of a frustrating goalless draw, it was the home fans who departed into the evening drizzle with satisfied smiles while the visiting fanbase left buoyed by a potentially vital Premier League point but still nervous about what awaits their side in the final fortnight of the campaign.

Suffer

And those contrasting moods were evidence of the regional power-shift that Baggies fans can – genuinely – hope becomes a long-term arrangement.

For the first time in 32 years Albion will end this campaign above Villa. And having already seen Wolves suffer an ignominious year, Baggies diehards are certain to enjoy a pleasant summer.

An eventful 90 minutes saw neither side really do enough to warrant maximum points but both were left feeling aggrieved by some potentially pivotal moments of controversy.

Near the end of an evenly-contested opening half, they were given a spot of help when referee Mark Clattenburg failed to see what looked like a handball by skipper Chris Brunt to control Alan Hutton's cross.

Yet if he did aggrieve, he did not have long to wait for the tables to turn as the officials inexplicably waved away Albion's penalty appeals early in the second half when the full-back thrust out his left-arm on the goalline and pushed Liam Ridgewell's goalbound header over the bar.

A penalty and a red card were denied to Albion, who were left incensed.

The sense of injustice fuelled them and they made the running for much of the half.

Portman's contest with Al Harbi could be saved

WEST BROMWICH'S Marcus Portman was today waiting to see if his chance to take on the undefeated Nasser Al Harbi later this month can be saved.

The light-middleweight 10-rounder has been left in limbo after the Dave Coldwell-promoted bill it had been due to headline was cancelled.

Portman was due to face the hometown fighter at the New Bingley Hall next Friday night but that event will now not take place.

But negotiations are ongoing to give the contest and switch it to Walsall Town Hall on Errol Johnson's show 24 hours after the original date.

With Coldwell and Johnson both happy for the fight to be switched but the final decision is expected to lie with the Al Harbi camp.

Portman was originally due to compete on the Walsall bill before taking the Al Harbi fight, stepping in to replace West Bromwich's Young Mutley.

Mutley real name Lee Woolley – pulled out through work commitments and Portman's presence meant Al Harbi needed to switch to face a southpaw.

It's Portman's first fight for 12 months and only his fourth in three years but the 31-year-old is a former WBU world champion.

He has also challenged for the British and Commonwealth light middleweight titles and is getting ready for his 31st pro bout.

With that in mind, Portman is looking to beat his 22-year-old rival 'to school' if they make it to school.

"We both haven't got a lot of knockouts to our name – but I am the stronger man."

He said: "I don't see

by Craig Birch

All-action contest sees end-of-season success

Tividale 3 Dunkirk 1

TIVIDALE finished their first Midland Alliance season in fine style as they clinched a fourth-place finish with a hard-fought victory over Dunkirk at the Beeches.

The hosts started brightly and Dunkirk keeper James Mason was called into action to make good saves from Danny Ashton and Kyle Hill within the first two minutes.

The visitors went close in their first attack but Tividale keeper Tim Beech denied them.

There was plenty of action before Hill won the ball near the corner flag on 20 minutes and crossed for the unmarked Chris Russell to tap home.

But the lead was short-lived as Kelvin Mushumbi slotted the ball past Beech.

The match turned Tividale's way on 55 minutes when the lively Matt Jukes met a cross from Joel Kettle and headed past the diving Mason.

The visitors thought that they had scored from a quick free-kick, but the referee ruled it out because the ball was moving as the kick was taken.

The hosts wrapped up the win when Hill scored direct from an inswinging corner as keeper Mason misjudged the flight of the ball.



No need for goal-line technology as Kyle Hill scores direct from a corner

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Late goal is decisive as Tipton are beaten

Tipton Town 0 Rocester 1

TIPTON suffered defeat in their final Midland Alliance game of the season in the last minute of normal time.

With their League Cup final looming, they made several changes and started brightly.

But they could not find that little piece of fortune to turn chances into goals.

Shots rained in but few were on target although Max Black hit the bar with a cross-cum-shot in the seventh minute.

Tipton had a number of penalty shouts waved away.

Home keeper Chris Collins saved well after 22 minutes of a scoreless first half.

Rocester forced a series of corners, but could not breach the home defence.

In the second half, Rocester had the benefit of a strong wind.

But the match was turning into a typical end-of-season affair with the visitors looking a tired side.

A draw looked on the cards, but a 90th-minute long-free-kick assisted by the conditions found Darren Bullock in the right place to rise above Collins and head the winner.

Best-time return for runner Ian

SEVERAL West Bromwich Harriers have set personal bests at three-mile park runs throughout the country.

At Walsall Arboretum Ian Phillips was first home in 20 minutes 36 seconds.

Phillips, recovering from a serious illness, has subsequently taken five seconds off that time.

Others personal bests are: Paul Mansell (40-44 age group) 25.32, John Buckley (70-74) 28.47, Claire Hodgkins (25-29) 29.09, Steve Pitt (40-44) 18.59, Andrew Moseley (45-49) 21.48, Ayaz Tarajia (35-39) 27.29, James Jefferies (45-49) 20.24, Gary Clifton (45-49) 21.08, Jim Greenwood (35-39) 21.48, Megan Jeavons (50-54) 27.58 and Diane Edge (60-64) 26.41.

Moseley achieved his best time of three hours, 38 minutes, 28 seconds in the Worcester Marathon.

John Buckley was also the first over-70 veteran in the first 5k Fordhouses at Wolverhampton, finishing in 29.40.



Team boss Will Pottinger

Heathens set sights on knockout

DUDLEY team boss Will Pottinger is desperate to see his side make it through to the semi-finals of the National League Knockout Cup.

The former Cradley club go to tackle their great rivals Buxton on Sunday with the return at their adopted Monmore Green home on Tuesday, May 8.

Ambitious Pottinger is keen for his team to challenge for as much silverware as possible in their third season.

He said: "Over the last couple of years there has been quite a rivalry between Buxton and ourselves and I'm sure we'll be taking a good contingent there on Sunday."

"It would be lovely to get past them but we need

All-action

Tividale finish off with fine victory

Page 39



D-raining

TCR struggle in Thruxton storms

Page 39

e-mail: chronsport@expressandstar.co.uk

Yeltz end the season with close home loss

Halesowen Town 1
Taunton Town 1

HALESOWEN ended a season of consolidation in the Evo-Stik Southern Division One South and West with a narrow home defeat by Taunton.

Spencer Blackham bundled the ball home for the Yeltz in the third minute but was ruled offside and a 21st-minute shot from Jean-Michel Gueyes drifted just wide.

But flowing football proved difficult on a tricky playing surface in a game of few chances.

The Peacocks snatched the winning goal after 22 minutes when Raith Plant took advantage of a defensive slip and set up Rodney Marsh to finish.

Marsh then smashed a half-volley just wide for Taunton late in the first half.

At the start of the second period, Halesowen goalkeeper Paul Evans did well to touch Simon Ingram's swirling corner over the bar and then turned away Graham Mercieca's 61st-minute ball across goal.

Home striker Ben Haseley continually found his route to goal blocked and fired at goalkeeper Lee Matthews in the 65th minute.

The visitors then survived a 71st-minute goalmouth scramble with both Marcus Jackson and Nathan Jones going close before a 74th-minute header from Peter Folkes landed on top of Taunton's crossbar.

Evans came to Halesowen's rescue with a fine save to deny Taunton substitute Corey Lewis before Haseley flashed two headers just wide in the final three minutes as the Yeltz pressed.

Halesowen Town: Evans; Westwood, Caines, Folkes, Smith, Gueyes, M Jackson, Saunders (2), N Jackson, Blackham (Jones 70), Haseley, Folkes (Huckfield 59). **Subs not used:** Drake, Flower.

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ROY'S READY FOR ALL THE PRESSURE

ENGLAND boss Roy Hodgson insists he will not be caught by surprise by the massive expectation that comes with his new job.

Many pundits have branded being in charge of the Three Lions an impossible task. Hodgson clearly does not think so after signing a four-year contract to replace Fabio Capello.

It is a fair bet the scrutiny will be more intense than he is used to, with only two spells at Inter Milan and that ill-fated stint at Liverpool to compare.

But Hodgson remains calm. And is ready for whatever is thrown at him.

"I realise what I'm going into," he said.

"I'm not naive and have been in football a long while.

"We're dealing with enormous expectations."

In addition, Hodgson has to cope with the knowledge that he is not the people's choice.

That honour belonged to Harry Redknapp, who remained an overwhelming favourite before the FA confirmed that Albion had granted them permission to speak with Hodgson on Sunday evening.

Former Charlton and Baggies boss Alan Curbishley has emerged as an early favourite with the bookmakers to replace Hodgson, who has signed a four-year contract with the Football Association.

Current Birmingham boss Chris Hughton is also believed to be a leading candidate although club chairman Jeremy Peace admits Hodgson will be "a tough act to follow" after a successful 15-month spell.

Peace said: "The board will now concentrate on the important task of appointing a new head coach to continue our project as we prepare for a third successive season in the Barclays Premier League."

"But there is one major difference between my time at Liverpool and being offered the job as England manager.

"The people who appointed me at Liverpool didn't have a chance to stay

very long and others took over the club.

"The FA had a lot of time to decide which candidate they wanted to do the job, and I'm happy it was me."

Albion are already searching for Hodgson's successor even though England's new head coach will remain in charge for the final two games of the domestic season.

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Albion boss Roy Hodgson is all smiles as he is unveiled officially as the new coach of the England team

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